

Sister of man wanted in murder hunt is charged

By CRAIG SETON

THE sister of one of three men being sought in connection with the shooting of an army recruitment sergeant in Derby appeared in court yesterday charged with impeding the apprehension of a murder suspect.

Kathleen Mary Magee, 30, of Derby, who appeared before a special sitting of the city's magistrates' court, was accused under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of failing to disclose information that she knew or believed might be of material assistance in the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a person for an

offence involving terrorism between April 13 and 16.

She was also charged under the Criminal Law Act with performing an act intended to impede the apprehension or prosecution of a person she knew or believed to be guilty of an arrestable offence, namely murder.

The court was searched by police with dogs before the hearing and people entering the building were searched. Miss Magee was remanded into police custody for three days. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Remand over boy's killing

A JOBLESS man was remanded in custody for seven days yesterday, charged with murdering Matthew Robinson, aged 4, at his parents' lodging house in Plymouth, Devon.

James Stuart Cochrane, 25, who appeared before a special sitting of Plymouth magistrates and was handcuffed to two police officers, was also charged with a serious sexual offence against the boy. He allegedly committed the offences between April 13 and 16. No bail application was made and Mr Cochrane was remanded in custody until April 27.

Matthew was found dead in bed last Wednesday morning. Mr Cochrane was formerly a lodger at the house.



Cochrane: a former lodger at house

Shops welcome Easter sales rise

By ALISON ROBERTS

SHOP sales rose over Easter, but retailers remained cautious about the prospects for recovery.

Harrods reported a turnover of £1.3 million over the holiday period, which was about double last year's, partly because the store opened on Good Friday for the first time. A spokesman said that the shop had had an "extremely good Easter", but that it was too early to predict a substantial increase in consumer confidence. "The signs are encouraging, because spending is more steady. A few months ago it was much more unpredictable."

Anne Horton, assistant manager at the Dickens & Jones department store in Regent Street, said that trading

had been good, but not unusual. "There were a lot of people, but lots were sightseers."

Bill Whiting, marketing director of B&Q, said: "We have to remain cautious at this stage. We did very well, but we were expecting to. I think consumer confidence will pick up with the general economy, and it will be gradual. I am not sure that I trust the post-election boom predictions."

The Oxford Street branch of Next, the clothing and furnishing retailer, has seen increasing sales for the past six months. "As far as we are concerned, people are spending as much money as they used to," Marc Smith, the manager, said.



Sleepy feeling: Thomas the dalmatian failing to stifle a yawn as it rides beside its owner, George Hawkins of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, in the 25th London harness horse parade in Regent's Park yesterday. Mr

Hawkins was driving his paired hackneys, Ackroyd Black Magic and Farum Bright Light in a phaeton competing in the pair harnessed vehicles class (Robin Young writes). The parade, for which there were over

230 entries, amalgamates the London cart horse parade, founded in 1885 and which was traditionally held on Whit Monday, and the London van horse parade, started in 1904 and held every Easter Monday

since with the exception of periods of the two world wars. Though the parades were originally intended for working horses, owners of private driving vehicles are now encouraged to join.

Shotgun man keeps woman hostage

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ARMED man was last night holding a young woman hostage in a house more than 24 hours after her mother and a young man were shot and seriously injured in separate, but related, incidents in Co Durham.

Efforts by police negotiators to talk the 24-year-old man out of the house were going on, using a field telephone passed through an upper window.

The siege began on Sunday afternoon at a house in Darlington soon after the first shooting a few miles away on a minor road near the village of Stillington.

In that incident, Jason Ward, 20, from Darlington was wounded in the head by a single barrel shotgun. As police began dealing with the first shooting, other officers were called to a house in Lynne Road in Darlington after reports that a woman had been shot as she ran down the front path. Pauline Rees, 43, was taken to hospital with body wounds. She is said to be "satisfactory". Thirty officers, some armed, surrounded the gunman, sealing off the area and evacuating other houses.

The man was named locally as Keith Pringle and his captive as Leanne Rees, 21. Her two children were being looked after by relatives. Police said that the gunman was known to both the injured people and to the woman being held.

Youths pelt police with bricks

AN ATTACK on police breaking up an all-night party in a disused factory was condemned yesterday as "part of the malaise affecting our society" by the chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation.

"You've got an undisciplined society, where young people take their lead from their elders," Mike Bennett said. "We are very concerned that this type of thing may take off. These parties are more likely from now on than they were during the winter, and you have a bored youth who find their thrills in taking on police officers."

He was speaking after police were pelted with bricks and bottles early yesterday while breaking up a party attended by 1,000 people in Acton Lane, Willesden, northwest London. Police moved in and made ten arrests after complaints about noise and damage to properties near by. One officer was taken to hospital with bruising but was not detained.

Mr Bennett said that under changes to policing in London, police numbers were being reduced at night. "They have researched when the public say they need us, and that is during the day, and less during the night. That will leave us short-handed when these things take place, which is a cause for concern."

Five men will appear before Brent magistrates today charged with committing violent disorder. Scotland Yard said, Three men will appear before Brent magistrates on June 2, on charges of obstructing police, assault on police and possession of cannabis, and another two men will appear before Baling magistrates on April 27.

Pong cleared for take-off

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

SHOULD passengers detect a whiff of garlic in the cabin of British Airways Boeing 737 G-BKJY booked to fly domestic shuttle routes from Heathrow today they should look to fellow travellers for the cause and not the airline.

No aircraft has been so well cleaned, deodorised and disinfected as G-BKJY and BA is confident that only the malodorous effects of someone's bank holiday indulgence will prevent it from having the most sweet smelling of take-offs. Not that the airline could have said the same last week when the jet reeked from every nook and cranny of 25 litres of concentrated garlic essence.

The plastic drum of garlic, which when diluted makes more than 1,000 litres of food additive, split as it was being unloaded from the aircraft's rear cargo compartment after being flown

in from Hamburg. Within seconds, workers were forced to leave the area as the pungent smell contaminated not only the aircraft but the entire hangar in which it was parked.

The jet was towed to a maintenance area at Heathrow and subjected to no less than 12 different steam cleaning treatments, all to no avail. A Boeing 737 is a costly piece of equipment to keep idle and as successive attempts to deodorise the aircraft failed, BA became ever more desperate to put it back into revenue earning service.

Then someone remembered Ben Matthey whose tiny firm in Petworth, West Sussex, claimed to have removed all traces of contamination from Laker Airways jets when the cabin crew began to fall mysteriously ill, from the cruise ship Canberra and from several London hospitals. "When

we got to Heathrow we found a very smelly aircraft indeed," said Mr Matthey whose company, Shield Hygiene Paper and Chemical International, has developed a non-toxic cleaning agent called BVD.

"We fed it into their high pressure cleaning machines, into the air conditioning unit and into any other hidden part where we thought the smell might be lingering," Mr Matthey said. After two treatments there was no trace of the garlic smell. The seats were put back and G-BKJY was ready to be restored to service.

"It must be the cleanest aircraft flying anywhere in the world," a spokesman for BA said. "We are just grateful for BVD." BVD stands for bacterial virucidal disinfectant and Mr Matthey is now predicting a surge in interest in his product — perhaps with Air France leading the way.

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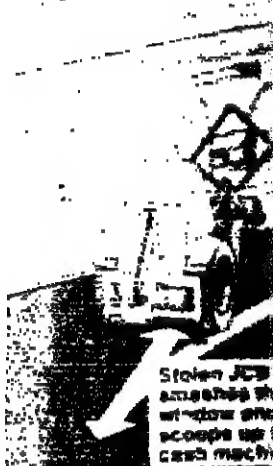
Of course, this is by no means the first award the 405 has won. On its launch, it was voted European Car of the Year.

A string of other accolades followed, the most recent being earlier this year when a 405 was voted Supreme Champion by 'Buying Cars' magazine.

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Bank after rip o

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Muggers murder father

[illegible]

The Sgt. Brown Blazes, Awarded P.M., said that the attack was totally unexpected. The degree of violence used was horrendous. For the sake of a second-hand dinner jacket, someone was prepared to murder one man and attempt to murder another. The number would suggest that there was no other intention than to kill both men.

He said that the Walkway Road and Sinneren Road area of Waiakohi, where the attack took place at 9.45pm, would have been busy and appealed for witnesses come forward.

He said the dead man, who made no attempt to fight back, managed to run only a few yards when he was overtaken by the gang, knocking the ground and stabbed with a 5-in. knife. Detectives are still looking for the weapon.

Mr. Cramer had two daughters, aged one month and two years. He was separated from his girl friend and lived alone in a flat in Wakefield.

Yesterday, Mr. Walker was sitting up and out of danger at Wakefield Manor hospital.

Ponies

BY ALISON ROSE

THE Exmoor pony, the rarest native breed of ponies, is threatened by government proposals that could fatally reduce its resilience.

The ministry emphasized that the scheme would be a success only if the society's members, including Mansell, claimed that the ponies would be paid until all the ponies

Bank offers £20,000 after JCB raiders rip out cashpoints

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

AN URGENT review of security at branches of the Abbey National banking group is under way after thieves drove a JCB digger through a front window and stole a cash dispenser containing £60,000.

The directors of the bank have offered a £20,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of thieves who have now raided five separate branches in south London, Kent and Surrey during the past five weeks, using similar methods.

Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Abbey National, which has seven million customers and 660 branches, would not discuss the latest robbery, at a branch in the Hemstead Valley shopping centre on the outskirts of Gillingham, Kent, early on Sunday morning. The raiders stole a digger

from a building site about a quarter of a mile away and drove it across fields to avoid a large housing estate.

It was rammed through the front window of the branch, ripping the cashpoint machine from its mountings. The raiders then scooped the machine into the digger's bucket, reversed and loaded it on to the back of a white Ford Transit truck which had been stolen the previous day from an industrial estate at Rochester.

As in the four previous raids, the thieves struck between 3am and 4am and used a stolen digger. Scotland Yard said yesterday that each raid was being treated separately, although the officials at the bank believed that only one gang was involved, because of the similarity of the raids.

Last week, a bulldozer was driven through the front of an Abbey National branch in West Norwood, southeast London, and two cash dispensers were stolen. They were loaded on to a van, but one fell on the pavement as the gang fled. Similar raids took place at Abbey National branches in Sutton, south London, on March 17; in Peckham, south London, on March 28; and in Bromley, southeast London, on April 2.

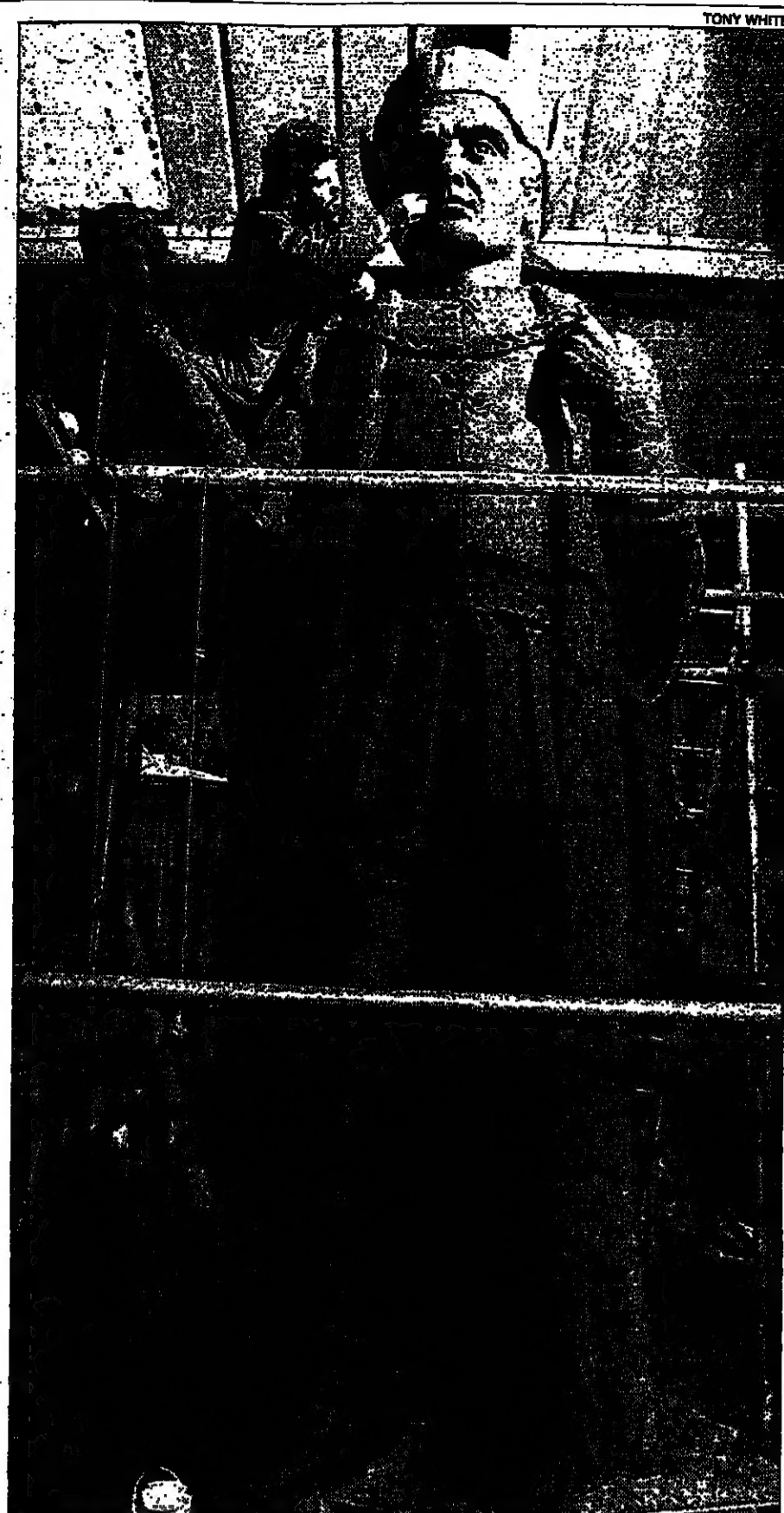
In a similar raid at a branch of the Nationwide Anglia building society in Cranleigh, Surrey, on April 4, raiders left a cashpoint machine, loaded with thousands of pounds, on the pavement. Three men backed a stolen skip lorry into the window, tied chains round the cash dispenser and wrenched it free. But as they drove away it slipped from the chains and bounced off.

Abbey National is particularly vulnerable to this kind of attack because, unlike other banks, many of its cash dispensers are set in the branches' glass fronts. Most other banks' cashpoints are set in walls.

Abbey National dispensers are mounted on concrete plinths inside the branch, but are only bolted to the concrete and the force of being rammed can rip them free. It is thought the company will look at setting them in the concrete.

A spokesman for the bank, which holds its annual meeting tomorrow, said: "We are looking at additional security measures at our branches. We have security within the branches, but the video cameras are directed towards the cashiers' windows rather than the dispenser."

The raids are similar to the "ram raiding" of shop fronts in which people drove stolen cars into the premises before looting them and driving off. Stores tried to combat the raids by replacing glass fronts with reinforced brick walls, and security advisers urged them to put bollards in front of their premises.



Head to head: the sculptor Guy Portelli works on a giant statue of Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant lord mayor of London in 1549-50, which is to be mounted on a 112ft high column in the grounds of Hawkstone Park in Shropshire, the Hill family seat for several generations. The original 1795 statue, which fell in the 1950s, depicted Sir Rowland in his lord

mayor's gown, holding Magna Carta. From the platform on which the new statue will stand it is possible to see 12 counties. Often it was used as a beacon, as when news of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar was announced: "A roar of cannon and a grand display of fireworks, a huge fire was lit at the top of the column which could be seen for miles around."

Functional Escort outstrips chic rivals

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

MOST drivers live a world away from the advertising man's image of high-powered cars carving a glamorous swathe through the streets. Instead, the typical British motorist is a married man, aged between 25 and 44, who owns a car about seven years old, most likely a Ford Escort, which costs £113 a month to run.

He covers 8,000 miles a year, mostly to work and for shopping and family outings, and has little interest in maintaining his car, leaving repairs to the local garage, according to an Automobile Association survey of 12,000 motorists.

The average age of the driving population is higher than a decade ago and some motoring costs, such as insurance, have risen steeply. Ten per cent of motorists were 65 or over in 1981, rising to 15 per cent by last year. There are fewer married people on the roads, down from 86 per cent to 71 per cent. But there are more women drivers — 38 per cent compared with 26 per cent a decade ago.

Seventy per cent drive a used car which cost an average of £2,700, and 63 per cent buy British, down from 74 per cent in 1981. The Ford Escort is the most widely driven, owned by 9.7 per cent. Next most popular among men is the Vauxhall Cavalier (7.1 per cent) and the Ford Sierra (5.8 per cent). The most popular women's car is a Ford Fiesta, accounting for 9.6 per cent.

The survey notes greater restrictions on parking, rising costs and the threat of theft. Fourteen per cent of motorists had at least one parking ticket in the year before the survey, 19 per cent had their car stolen, and 34 per cent had it broken into.

That led to the number of motorists fitting car alarms rising from 5 per cent in 1981 to 17 per cent last year. In 1981, 8 per cent of the average driver's annual expenditure of £920 was for insurance. Premiums now account for 14 per cent of annual outgoings of £1,400. Servicing and repairs have increased to 24 per cent of the family motoring budget compared with 20 per cent ten years ago.

Aircraft makes emergency landing

An aircraft with 33 passengers and crew made an emergency landing at Liverpool airport when its nose wheel failed to retract. No one was injured in the incident.

The Manx Airlines turbo prop plane was examined by British Aerospace engineers and transport department accident investigators yesterday. Terry Liddiard, managing director of the airline, praised the skill of Captain Phil Scott, who had followed standard procedure. Just after taking off at 6.50pm on Sunday for a scheduled flight to the Isle of Man, Cpt Scott realised there was a hitch and, after circling for an hour, decided to abort the flight. He dumped fuel and alerted the emergency services before landing.

Lifeboat tribute

The Duke of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, is to name a lifeboat called The Four Boys at Sennen Cove, Cornwall, tomorrow in memory of four boys who died when they were swept out to sea during a school trip to Land's End seven years ago.

Boys charged

Two boys aged 15 were charged with stealing a car and a car which left three police cars damaged after a high speed chase. Huddersfield magistrates bailed one and placed the other in care.

Dog stars

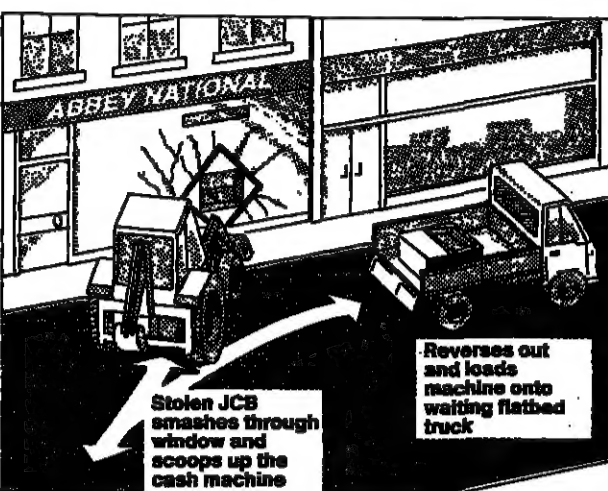
A pet cemetery dating from Victorian days — including a headstone engraved "Darbie the indomitable, died Nov 18, 1908" — has been found at Drymman Hall, Skewen, West Glamorgan.

Coins found

A hoard of 800 silver coins thought to have been hidden in the 1480s has been found in a 9in jug in a field near Selby, North Yorkshire.

Just the ticket

Roger Dicker, 22, a Colchester United supporter, has bought a £14 ticket to see his team play Winton Albion in the FA Trophy final at Wembley next month — and a £2,000 airline ticket to fly from Japan where he works.



Muggers murder father

A MAN was stabbed to death and a friend wounded after they refused to hand over a leather jacket to a group of men.

Paul Carter, 24, of Walsall, West Midlands, was rushed to hospital where he later died. James Walker, 23, was stabbed repeatedly as he tried to cling on to his jacket. Last night ten men, aged between 16 and 24, were helping police with their enquiries.

The attack, on Saturday night, happened when the two men, accompanied by another, walked to a pub in Walsall. Mr Carter, who had two children, was caught and knifed in the chest. Mr Walker was stabbed in the back and suffered a punctured lung.

Det Supt Brian Davies, of Walsall police, said that the attack was totally unprovoked. "The degree of violence used was horrendous. For the sake of a second-hand leather jacket, someone was prepared to murder one man and attempt to murder another. The number of wounds suggests that there was no other intention than to kill both men."

He said that the Walsall Road and Sovereign Place area of Walsall, where the attack took place at 8.45pm, would have been busy and he appealed for witnesses to come forward.

He said the dead man, who made no attempt to fight back, managed to run only a few yards when he was overtaken by the gang, knocked to the ground and stabbed with a 5in knife. Detectives are still looking for the weapon.

Mr Carter had two daughters, aged one month and two years. He was separated from his girl friend and lived alone in a flat in Walsall.

Yesterday Mr Walker was sitting up and out of danger at Walsall Manor hospital.

Hawk man offers reward

By John Young

THE owner of two pairs of hawks stolen from aviaries ten miles apart yesterday offered a £1,000 reward for their safe return.

Mark Holden, 30, a milkman, said that two American Harris hawks were stolen from the garden of his terraced house in Lynchet Maravens, Dorset, on Saturday when he was out. The burglars also broke into his home and stole electrical goods.

He then found that two young goshawks which he owned had been stolen from a friend's house at Bear Cross. The four birds were worth a total of £4,000, he said.

"I've been keeping birds for ten years and whoever stole them knew what they were doing," he said. "Both pairs of birds were stolen on the same day, which means the people must have known that one pair was being kept at a friend's house."

"I think the burglary was an afterthought. They were really after the birds. They must have had a knowledge of birds because you can't just steal hawks without them kicking up a fuss. Female hawks are very aggressive when they're breeding."

Mr Holden said he was particularly concerned for one of the birds because she was about to lay. If she was grabbed, the egg could have broken inside her, which would be fatal. "I've been trying to breed from them for the last four years and this was about to be it."

The birds have identification rings on their legs. They are roughly the same size as rooks with 30in wingspans. The Harris hawks are black and brown with white-tipped tails, while the goshawks have white fronts, grey bodies and piercing orange eyes. Both species have yellow feet.

Shop fire blamed on extremists

By Craig Seton

AN ARSON attack yesterday was believed to be responsible for a fire in Leicester that gutted a shop at the centre of protests by Muslims. The shop had been selling shoes embroidered with a quotation from the Koran.

Valentina's in Allandale Road, Leicester, was destroyed early yesterday in a blaze after a car crashed through the front window and caught fire. The fire came a week after Diana Lewis, the owner, was involved in a dispute over imported Italian shoes decorated with an embroidery that included an inscription from the Koran saying "There is no God but Allah."

Some Muslims protested that it was deeply offensive to have the name of Allah on footwear that would be trampled in the dirt. Mrs Lewis, who also owns shoe shops in Peterborough and Nottingham, was reluctant to remove the shoes from sale and later received anonymous telephone calls.

The dispute appeared to have been resolved last week when Mrs Lewis met local Muslims and a settlement was announced. It was believed to have involved a local Asian businessman buying the remaining stock of the

offending shoes and destroying them.

Mrs Lewis, a Roman Catholic, blamed extremists for the fire and said: "I never imagined I would see anything like this. It is terrible. The people in the flat above the next shop could have been killed. I am sad to see this, all caused by some shoes. This is taking religion a little bit too far. It was like a Beirut car-bomb."

A spokesman for the Leicester-based Moderate Islamic Trust said yesterday that he was saddened by what had happened and added: "We totally dissociate ourselves from this kind of thing. We would never encourage violence or damage of anyone's property in this way and condemn it in the strongest possible terms."

Leicestershire fire service said the blaze was being treated as arson. The ground floor of the shop was destroyed and the first and second floors were damaged by heat and smoke.

Inspector Neville Cotterill of Leicestershire police said they were examining the possibility of a religious motive for the fire. "We are obviously looking into that aspect. That sort of background will be foremost in our minds."

Ponies could be killed by kindness

By Alison Roberts

THE Exmoor pony, the oldest and rarest native breed of pony, is threatened by government conservation proposals that could fatally weaken its resilience, Somerset farmers say.

To try to protect heather moorland from over-grazing, the agriculture ministry is proposing to give grants to farmers if they take all livestock, including ponies, off the moor and into farms during the winter. The Exmoor Pony Society says that there would be no room for the ponies on farms and that they would have to be slaughtered.

The ministry emphasised yesterday that the scheme would be voluntary. But the society's secretary, David Mansell, claimed that no grants would be paid until all the animals on the

common land, which is used by many farmers, were removed. This would mean that pony owning farmers who did not want to remove the animals would be put under pressure to take part in the scheme.

Mr Mansell said: "We agree with the objective of the proposal, but this could be met by removing sheep and cattle which are used to grazing in fields. If the ponies are taken off as well, even just for the winter, the natural characteristics of coat structure and diet would quickly become weakened, producing a pony that could not survive unaided out on the moor."

Farmers' dedication to the survival of the ponies would be tested if feeding costs and veterinary charges had to be met. Most of the ponies have never been handled by humans. They are

reluctant to eat hay even in the hardest winter and some farmers say that they would not survive well on farms.

Exmoor ponies are an endangered breed, with just under 800 ponies worldwide. Of the 260 known breeding mares, half belong to the herds on Exmoor. The animals, which stand under 12 hands 2in, have lived on the moor since ancient times grazing on gorse, rushes and heather.

Robert Mitchell, whose family owns a stallion and eight mares, described the proposals as "total rubbish". He said: "It would be impossible for some farmers to look after them and they would have to be destroyed." A spokesman for the ministry said it was hoped to implement the scheme within the year and that it would be closely monitored.

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High cost of reform forces rethink over single-tier councils

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

PLANS to reorganise local government in England might be shelved as ministers attempt to control public spending.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, has told advisers that the cost of full-scale reform may be too high and has indicated that he is considering a much more limited plan involving about a dozen big cities.

His predecessor, Michael Heseltine, had an uphill struggle to persuade his cabinet colleagues of the merits of replacing county and district councils with a single tier of all-purpose authorities.

Senior colleagues, including Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, opposed the reform plan, which

emerged from Mr Heseltine's search for a replacement for the community charge. Mr Heseltine, now trade and industry secretary, won the cabinet battle and the Local Government Act, which gained Royal Assent shortly before the election, created a new local government commission with powers to create unitary authorities. Mr Heseltine expected the commission to create new unitary authorities in almost every part of England except London and the metropolitan areas where they already exist.

Sir John Banham, director general of the CBI who was named as chairman of the commission last November has, however, said that his guiding principle will be: "If

it ain't broke don't fix it." Mr Howard, who took over the environment department last week, has made it clear that he shares Sir John's view and that he has yet to be convinced of the merits of a wholesale reorganisation. He believes the costs, both in terms of money and disruption, may be too great at a time when ministers are trying to curb public spending.

He has suggested giving unitary status to the larger cities which are not already all-purpose metropolitan authorities. Among the names being discussed are Bristol, Derby, Hull, Leicester, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Stoke on Trent, York, and possibly Warrington.

Such a limited reform would, in effect, recreate the old county boroughs by giving the existing district councils in each city control of services such as education and social services, which passed to the county councils in 1974.

Mr Howard wants to talk to local authority leaders before making a final decision. His views are likely to upset the district councils, which have campaigned for the abolition of the counties. The government will risk attacks from Conservative councillors across the country if it disappoints those hopes.

Mr Howard's limited proposals would still achieve the ambition of removing unpopular counties such as Avon and Humberside. Whatever the eventual form of the new structure, Bristol, with 374,000 people one of the largest boroughs in Britain, seems certain to regain its municipal independence.

Mr Howard's decision will not affect Wales, where David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has promised to create 23 unitary authorities to replace all eight county and 37 district councils.

Howard to lose inner-cities role

By John Lewis and Sheila Gunn

MICHAEL Howard, the new environment secretary, is to lose a substantial part of his inner-cities portfolio under the government's shake-up of urban renewal policy.

The decision to shift most of the responsibility for inner cities to the new urban regeneration agency, under Peter Walker, deprives Mr Howard of a big portion of his budget.

One of Mr Howard's first jobs in the new Parliament will be to introduce legislation to set up the agency, which he has worked on for nine months. The mass transfer of responsibilities to Mr Walker will be regarded as Westminster as a blow for Tory right-wingers such as Mr Howard and John Redwood, his minister with day-to-day responsibility for inner cities.

During the election campaign, John Major and his ministers played up plans for an agency to bring together

different strands of policies for derelict areas.

For Mr Walker, who retired from the Commons at the election, the agency's wide remit hands him the prospect of expanding the policies he carried out in Wales into England. Under his stewardship, Wales attracted more than 20 per cent of Britain's inward investment, although it accounted for only 5 per cent of the population.

Besides having responsibility for acquiring and redeveloping derelict land in inner cities, Mr Walker will take over control of the urban development corporations. He will look for foreign companies and entrepreneurs to invest in deprived areas.

Mr Heseltine, who sees the agency as an engine for social change, described it as the "next logical and major step in a very exciting programme for urban regeneration".



Floral tribute: visitors to the French quarter of New Orleans add their flowers to gifts and messages placed at the point where the British tourist Julie Stott, 27, was shot dead by a mugger last week. Robert "Peanut" Jones, 19, has been charged with her murder

Short levels in semi-final

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

NIGEL Short has levelled the scores in his world chess championship semi-final against Anatoly Karpov in Linares, Spain. He took 15 moves to capitalise on his advantage in the adjourned fourth game.

In the fifth game, which was also adjourned, Short had a one-pawn advantage, but could not turn it to victory. The match is level at 2½ points each.

The moves in Game 4, with Short playing white, were:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	11 b4	c5
2 d4	c6	12 Bb2	Bb7
3 Nf3	Bf6	13 Bb1	Bd8
4 Nc3	e6	14 Bb1	a5
5 Bc2	cd7	15 Rxa4	cxb4
6 d-c3	Nc6	16 Rxa4	cxb4
7 c3	cd4	17 Rxb4	Qc5
8 cxd4	Nge7	18 b4	d-c4
9 a3	Be4	19 Bb2	Bd7
10 Nbd2	Nf5	21 Rf4	a6

White	Black	White	Black
22 Nf5	Bd7	30 Rb5	Nb6
23 h4	h5	31 Kf3	g6
24 Bx4	Ng7	32 Rb7	Ng4
25 Rf4	Nh6	33 Bb3	Nb6
26 Qd1	Nf5	34 Rb7	Ng4
27 Bc3	Qe7	35 Rb7	Nb6
28 Qb2	Nf4	36 Kd3	Nb6
29 Rb4	Rd4	37 Kd3	Nb6
30 Rb4	Rd4	38 Rb4	Rd4
31 Rb3	Rd4	39 Rb4	Rd4
32 Rb3	Rd4	40 Rb4	Rd4
33 Rb3	Rd4	41 Rb4	Rd4
34 Rb3	Rd4	42 Rb4	Rd4
35 Rb3	Rd4	43 Rb4	Rd4
36 Rb3	Rd4	44 Rb4	Rd4
37 Rb3	Rd4	45 Rb4	Rd4
38 Rb3	Rd4	46 Rb4	Rd4
39 Rb3	Rd4	47 Rb4	Rd4
40 Rb3	Rd4	48 Rb4	Rd4
41 Rb3	Rd4	49 Rb4	Rd4
42 Rb3	Rd4	50 Rb4	Rd4
43 Rb3	Rd4	51 Rb4	Rd4
44 Rb3	Rd4	52 Rb4	Rd4
45 Rb3	Rd4	53 Rb4	Rd4
46 Rb3	Rd4	54 Rb4	Rd4
47 Rb3	Rd4	55 Rb4	Rd4
48 Rb3	Rd4	56 Rb4	Rd4
49 Rb3	Rd4	57 Rb4	Rd4
50 Rb3	Rd4	58 Rb4	Rd4
51 Rb3	Rd4	59 Rb4	Rd4
52 Rb3	Rd4	60 Rb4	Rd4
53 Rb3	Rd4	61 Rb4	Rd4
54 Rb3	Rd4	62 Rb4	Rd4
55 Rb3	Rd4	63 Rb4	Rd4
56 Rb3	Rd4	64 Rb4	Rd4
57 Rb3	Rd4	65 Rb4	Rd4
58 Rb3	Rd4	66 Rb4	Rd4
59 Rb3	Rd4	67 Rb4	Rd4
60 Rb3	Rd4	68 Rb4	Rd4
61 Rb3	Rd4	69 Rb4	Rd4
62 Rb3	Rd4	70 Rb4	Rd4
63 Rb3	Rd4	71 Rb4	Rd4
64 Rb3	Rd4	72 Rb4	Rd4
65 Rb3	Rd4	73 Rb4	Rd4
66 Rb3	Rd4	74 Rb4	Rd4
67 Rb3	Rd4	75 Rb4	Rd4
68 Rb3	Rd4	76 Rb4	Rd4
69 Rb3	Rd4	77 Rb4	Rd4
70 Rb3	Rd4	78 Rb4	Rd4
71 Rb3	Rd4	79 Rb4	Rd4
72 Rb3	Rd4	80 Rb4	Rd4
73 Rb3	Rd4	81 Rb4	Rd4
74 Rb3	Rd4	82 Rb4	Rd4
75 Rb3	Rd4	83 Rb4	Rd4
76 Rb3	Rd4	84 Rb4	Rd4
77 Rb3	Rd4	85 Rb4	Rd4
78 Rb3	Rd4	86 Rb4	Rd4
79 Rb3	Rd4	87 Rb4	Rd4
80 Rb3	Rd4	88 Rb4	Rd4
81 Rb3	Rd4	89 Rb4	Rd4
82 Rb3	Rd4	90 Rb4	Rd4
83 Rb3	Rd4	91 Rb4	Rd4
84 Rb3	Rd4	92 Rb4	Rd4
85 Rb3	Rd4	93 Rb4	Rd4
86 Rb3	Rd4	94 Rb4	Rd4
87 Rb3	Rd4	95 Rb4	Rd4
88 Rb3	Rd4	96 Rb4	Rd4
89 Rb3	Rd4	97 Rb4	Rd4
90 Rb3	Rd4	98 Rb4	Rd4
91 Rb3	Rd4	99 Rb4	Rd4
92 Rb3	Rd4	100 Rb4	Rd4

The moves in Game 5, with Karpov playing white, were:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	2 e4	d5
2 e4	d5	3 e4	d5
3 e4	d5	4 e4	d5
4 e4	d5	5 e4	d5
5 e4	d5	6 e4	d5
6 e4	d5	7 e4	d5
7 e4	d5	8 e4	d5
8 e4	d5	9 e4	d5
9 e4	d5	10 e4	d5
10 e4	d5	11 e4	d5
11 e4	d5	12 e4	d5
12 e4	d5	13 e4	d5
13 e4	d5	14 e4	d5
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24 e4	d5	25 e4	d5
25 e4	d5	26 e4	d5
26 e4	d5	27 e4	d5
27 e4	d5	28 e4	d5
28 e4	d5	29 e4	d5
29 e4	d5	30 e4	d5
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41 e4	d5	42 e4	d5
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64 e4	d5	65 e4	d5
65 e4	d5	66 e4	d5
66 e4	d5	67 e4	d5
67 e4	d5	68 e4	d5
68 e4	d5	69 e4	d5
69 e4	d5	70 e4	d5
70 e4	d5	71 e4	d5
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80 e4	d5	81 e4	d5
81 e4	d5	82 e4	d5
82 e4	d5	83 e4	d5
83 e4	d5	84 e4	d5
84 e4	d5	85 e4	d5
85 e4	d5	86 e4	d5
86 e4	d5	87 e4	d5
87 e4	d5	88 e4	d5
88 e4	d5	89 e4	d5
89 e4	d5	90 e4	d5
90 e4	d5	91 e4	d5
91 e4	d5	92 e4	d5
92 e4	d5	93 e4	d5
93 e4	d5	94 e4	d5
94 e4	d5	95 e4	d5
95 e4	d5	96 e4	d5
96 e4	d5	97 e4	d5
97 e4	d5	98 e4	d5
98 e4	d5	99 e4	d5
99 e4	d5	100 e4	d5

Latter-day Doolittle struggles to survive

By John Young

ALL you need is a little bit of luck to find yourself on easy street. So sang Alfred Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Nowadays Doolittle, a coalman, would need more than luck not to find himself on the dole, according to a survey by the Coal Merchants' Federation.

More than half of 2,000 people questioned had not seen a coalman within the past year — although there are still 10,000 of them — and more than a fifth, mostly young, said that they did not know how to light a fire. The highest proportion of coal fires is in Scotland, and the lowest in London, although more people in the South would like to have a fire.

Nearly three million homes have open fireplaces. In more than eight million they have been blocked up.

More than half of those interviewed thought that coal supplies were running out or did not know. In fact, the federation says, world coal resources are greater than those of any other fuel. Supplies in the United Kingdom will last for 300 years, whereas those of oil will be past their peak by the end of the century.

The federation also suggests that coal fires are healthier than gas or oil fired central heating, because they reduce condensation in the home and ensure adequate ventilation.



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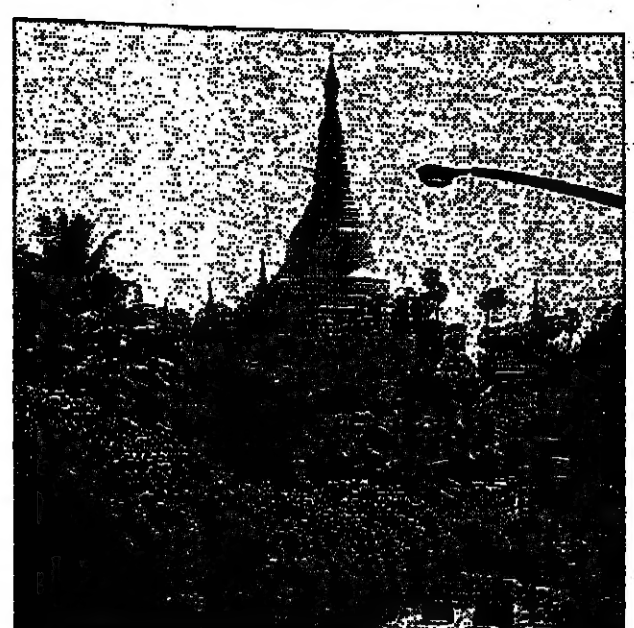
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Rangoon awakes from a 50-year sleep to discover blue jeans



Changing ways: among Buddhist pagodas signs of modernism are seen on Rangoon's streets

ON THE descent to Burma's capital, Rangoon, the airline stewardess was reputed to say: "Please adjust your watch to local time - 30 years backwards."

The joke no longer holds true. Martial law is changing the city quickly. Burma has opened up to foreign investment and tourists and the road from the airport is a new six-lane highway. The old British colonial buildings are being repainted and the graceful Strand Hotel, once a romantic stop on the tourist's schedule, is being refurbished. Billboards advertise American Express and Visa credit cards.

The consumer society has reached Rangoon and goods imported from Thailand and China are stacked up in the stores. Blue jeans, once a scarce item, hang rack upon rack in the night markets.

Since the takeover by the military in 1988, Burma's capital has doubled in size and embraced the market economy, Abby Tan writes from Rangoon

"Rangoon was asleep for 50 years," says one city official. The mayor is Colonel Ko Lay, 53, a former paratrooper. Since the military junta took power in 1988, Rangoon has expanded from 113 to 225 square miles, mainly because of five new satellite towns built to resettle the city's half-million squatters. The army has mobilised "voluntary" brigades of able-bodied men to clean the city and build roads.

Speaking in a city auditorium of gilt ceilings and pink columns, the mayor told a fund-raising ceremony why he needed 30 million kyats (\$2.6 million at the official rate) for a two-week national sports festival beginning on May 3: it is worth 12.5 kyats at the official rate of exchange but fetches 155 on the black market. Actresses and pop singers came to pledge their support and have their pictures taken with the mayor. Donations, the mayor says, are a Burmese way of life - a reference to the tradition of donating food to the Buddhist monks.

Rangoon is learning from Singapore, another Asian city that thrived under authoritarian rule. Some of the Rangoon projects are clearly only for show, but the standard of living has improved.

Khin Kyi Htay, a civil engineer, works for a foreign businessman, and has bought a new Japanese car. Like many middle-class Burmese, she claims up on the subject of politics. Asked if she is bothered by the lack of democracy, she replied: "I don't like politics. I don't read newspapers." Asked how she felt when the pro-democracy movement was crushed by the army in 1988, she replied: "I pray to the Lord Buddha for peace and tranquillity."

On the outskirts of Rangoon the new satellite towns tell a different story. The red clay road into one of them, Dagon township, is desolate. Some houses are wood structures on stilts with palm leaf roofs. Others are tiled, like square concrete boxes painted in loud colours. "Hopeless town" is the message scrawled in English on a new concrete bridge.

The paradox is that although Burma moved towards a free market economy in 1988, these townships practise the very tenets of socialism the government is trying to leave behind. The Burmese here are heavily subsidised. Water, electricity and medical care are free, and building materials are subsidised.

Settlers have mixed feelings about the townships. Than Nu, a widow aged 50, said she borrowed 3,500 kyats to buy a 40ft by 60ft plot of land. The price is equivalent to about £300 at the official exchange rate but £25 at the black market rate. "Now that I am the owner of my house I am happy," she said. Her three sons, who work in a restaurant in central Rangoon, get free transport, and all residents of Dagon travel to the capital to work.

But there are unhappy settlers too. Thein Nyunt, 36, was given a plot of land far from the main road, shook his head and complained: "The government ordered me here. I am happy. We have no electricity and no water." Corrugated iron sheets are his temporary walls in a one-room house which he shares with his wife and four grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Mayor Ko Lay said construction of the township took 10 per cent of the national budget. No one knows the size of the subsidies but the public sector deficit in 1991 was close to 14 per cent of gross domestic product. The subsidies are likely to stay, if only because the junta fears unrest if they are lifted.

Court overturns stay of killer's execution

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

LEGAL attempts to win a reprieve for Robert Alton Harris continued last night, up to the moment that the convicted killer was being prepared for the gas chamber at California's San Quentin prison.

Harris, sentenced to death for killing two San Diego teenagers in 1978, had hoped on Easter Sunday that he would escape the gas chamber after a federal judge granted a ten-day stay of execution. But yesterday, a three-judge appellate court overturned the order, allowing the execution to be carried out on schedule at one minute past midnight local time today, or San EST.

Lawyers for Harris and the American Civil Liberties Union were looking for ways in the hours leading up to his execution to plead the case before the US Supreme Court. The union is anxious to prevent Harris from becoming the first man to be executed in California in a quarter of a century. Opponents of capital punishment fear that if the state resumes executions, others which have refrained from carrying out the death penalty will follow.

The ten-day order, issued by Judge Marilyn Hall Patel on Saturday, surprised legal experts. The judge's order came in response to a civil liberties lawsuit on behalf of Harris and more than 300 other inmates on California's death row. The argument, that the use of lethal gas was "cruel and unusual punishment", was seen by legal observers as a futile, last-ditch attempt to save Harris after a 13-year campaign through state and federal court appeals to stop his execution.

"We presented overwhelming evidence to Judge Patel that the use of lethal gas was

barbarous and tortuous," Michael Laurence, Harris's lawyer, said. "This whole case is about the method of death. It does not set anyone free. It does not change anyone's sentence."

Supporters of the death penalty yesterday accused Judge Patel of being swayed by personal views. Judge Patel is a former board member of the civil liberties union. The reasons why the 9th District Court of Appeals overturned Judge Patel's order were not clear yesterday. Details of the court's decision were not immediately available.

If the temporary restraining order had stood, the state would have been forced to ask for another death warrant from the courts, a process that would have taken 40 days.

Harris, 39, was sentenced in 1979. Accompanied by his brother, Harris kidnapped two boys from a fast-food restaurant, drove them in their car to a secluded spot, shot them at point-blank range, finished their hamburgers and then went on to rob a bank.

Protests continued yesterday outside San Quentin and in San Francisco's Marina Green Park where demonstrators draped themselves with cardboard tombstones bearing the names of the 502 people executed in California since 1893.

Maryland, Arizona, Mississippi and North Carolina still officially use lethal gas for executions. However, Maryland has not had an execution since 1961 and Arizona has begun the legislative process to change its method of carrying out the death penalty.

Harris's lawyers have filed 20 appeals over the 13 years their client has been on death row. Their grounds have ranged from arguing that the original jury did not realise he is mentally impaired to claiming that his brother took a greater role in the shootings.

US mayor invites clash on abortion

BY JAMIE DETTMER

MAYORS usually are keen to prevent confrontation on their city streets. James Griffin, the mayor of Buffalo, is different. His invitation to a fundamentalist pro-life group to visit his city led to predictable and ugly clashes yesterday outside Buffalo's three abortion clinics.

Observers were hurtled between pro-life and pro-choice demonstrators as members of Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion group attempted to blockade the clinics. Leaders on both sides of the abortion debate promised non-violent demonstrations, but few believed that Buffalo would avoid what happened to Wichita, Kansas, last year when Operation Rescue came to town.

During the six-week protests in Wichita, police made more than 2,000 arrests and the city had to fork out nearly \$500,000 (£287,000) on police overtime pay. Yesterday in Buffalo, about 300 abortion rights demonstrators gathered before dawn outside one of the city's clinics in readiness for the start of Operation Rescue's four-week protest.

Most of the 328,000 residents of Buffalo, an economically depressed, predominantly Roman Catholic city, have been bracing themselves for the last few weeks for the expected disruption. Both pro-life and pro-choice groups announced that they would make Buffalo a showcase, a replay of Wichita.

Alison Jones, a spokeswoman for the pro-choice Planned Parenthood organisation, warned that they would encourage "thousands of troops" to defend the Buffalo clinics. "We won't have Buffalo as a place where choice is not defended," Karen Swallow of Operation Rescue said they planned to put doctors who perform abortions out of business.

Mr Griffin, who has been mayor since 1978, is fervently anti-abortion. "If Operation Rescue wants to come into our city, fine," he says defiantly.

The city's council is less than pleased. By 12 to one it declared Operation Rescue was not welcome. With the city budget running at \$18 million deficit, the council argued that there was no money to spare for extra policing.

UN chief appeals for aid to ease Cambodia's suffering

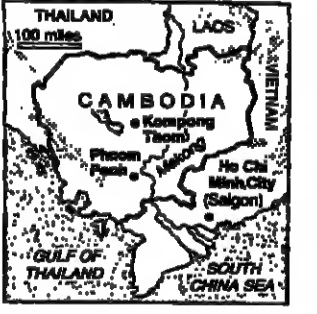
FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

BOUROS BOUTROS Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, yesterday appealed for \$593 million (£340 million) to alleviate suffering and to help rebuild Cambodia. He again expressed optimism over the prospects for peace and a settlement of the conflict.

Dr Boutros Ghali was ending a three-day visit to inspect the world body's ambitious peacekeeping operation. He said funds were needed "to help this beleaguered nation recover from more than two decades of conflict and suffering". The cash, he added, would also ensure that the political process which had put Cambodia on the road to democracy would not be compromised.

Sitting next to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, the UN-mandated reconciliation body linking the four Cambodian factions, Dr Boutros Ghali said the funds would pay for food, health services, shelter, education, training and the restoration of the basic infrastructure and public utilities. Some money would go towards repatriating 370,000 refugees now in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The repatriation process, which began late last month, is part of the accord signed last October in Paris. The UN



rule from 1975-9 up to a million Cambodians died, have been called the world's worst violators of such rights. Dr Boutros Ghali said that by signing the covenants the parties showed "their willingness to overcome the serious mistakes of the past".

He said: "I believe there is a political will for national reconciliation and the reconstruction of the country. And I believe Prince Sihanouk's wisdom and leadership will help us overcome all difficulties." UN officials privately concede that there are still great problems to be solved.

Dr Boutros Ghali later left for Thailand, on the third stage of a four-nation Asian tour, including China.

● MIA talks: Five American senators held talks yesterday with Cambodian officials to assess progress in resolving the issue of Americans listed as missing in action from the Vietnam war which ended 17 years ago. The members of the Senate select committee on POW/MIA affairs arrived in Phnom Penh yesterday morning, led by John Kerry, the chairman.

Senator Kerry said that his group had held productive talks with Hun Sen, the prime minister, interior ministry officials and diplomats. The delegation will travel to Vietnam today and later visit Laos to seek more co-operation in accounting for more than 2,000 US servicemen missing since 1975. (AP)

Kim's grand design fails to scale the socialist heights

David Watts writes from Pyongyang on the limits to gigantism in a city where one may peruse 37 volumes by the Great Leader in comparative peace

TOWERING over President Kim Il Sung's North Korean capital is a 105-storey pyramid-shaped hotel. Pyongyang also has an Arch of Triumph, one metre higher than the Parisian original, and what is said to be the world's tallest stone tower, symbolising Mr Kim's nationalist Juche theory of independence.

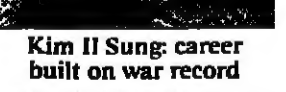
The magnificent new hotel owes its inspiration not to Mr Kim, but to the son of the "Great Leader", Kim Jong Il, known as the "Dear Leader". As you draw near to examine this new triumph of socialism, you notice that it is unfinished and has clearly been so for some time. It is rumoured that no company in existence could supply the necessary lifts because the structure could not support their weight at the apex.

But there could be another problem. The funds for the project were put up by a Macau businessman. At the foot of the hotel, he seems to have planned to make serious money by installing a massage parlour of suitably heroic proportions. At first everyone went along with the idea, not least, apparently, the Dear Leader, who is said to have an eye for the ladies. But when the scale of the plans became clear, there were second thoughts. Not for our businessman the occasional tired Japanese salaryman popping in after negotiating barter deals, but plane-loads of them flown in from Japan on Saturday and dispatched back home on Sunday. Even the less austere cadres were not quite ready for that, given that Kim pere's career has been built upon the myth that he drove the Japanese imperial army from Manchuria almost single-handed.

The capital already has more sober attractions. For North Koreans with time to spare between work and the next indoctrination session, Pyongyang offers the Grand People's Study House. A massive pile in the classic Korean style of architecture, it boasts 600 rooms and 30 million books, or so the official guides claim.

Available from the more than 160 miles of shelves is the latest issue of *The New*

England Journal of Medicine, in Korean translation. Marx and Lenin are there in the original and in translation (but not Trotsky). And a visit also provides some respite from the incessant revolutionary songs played over the public address system in apartments and on the streets from six every morning. Most of the rooms are busy, and there is even a professor ready to answer questions. There is also a room devoted to the



Kim Il Sung: career built on war record

study of the works of the "Great Leader", with volume 37 hot off the press. When I looked in, it was deserted.

President Kim has just celebrated his 80th birthday, and everyone was expected to bring a present to the party. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian leader, brought a silver bowl and showed a film he had made back home. President Museveni of Uganda brought some African tribal artifacts which left Mr Kim rather puzzled.

A BBC man proffered a corporation T-shirt. Unsure of its ideological appropriateness, he found, slightly to his surprise, that it was accepted only to be returned because it wasn't properly wrapped.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by James Bone

Battered husbands find a refuge

Battered husbands in America will soon have a place to seek sanctuary from their domineering wives. A men's rights group in St Paul, Minnesota, is planning to set up the nation's first shelter for battered husbands.

Buoyed by statistics that show that women are just as likely to beat up their husbands as men are to assault their wives, the Domestic Rights Coalition argues that there should be sexual equality in the provision of shelters. "Hey, men, if you are being slapped, kicked or punched, that's illegal and you don't have to take it anymore," George Gilliland, the group's founder, proclaimed in *The New York Times*.

Feminists argue that men

are just bigger and tougher than women and so less likely to get hurt, but members of the burgeoning men's movement cite a 1985 study of 6,000 couples which asked each partner how often they resorted to violence and intimidation. Women were slightly more likely than men to have slapped, kicked, bitten or punched their nearest and dearest.

Women were also more likely to have threatened their partner with a knife or gun. Men were slightly more likely to have beaten up their spouses or choked them. Both sexes were equally likely to have used a gun or knife on a partner.

As if to prove men's point, a California woman has been arrested for setting her cancer-ridden

husband on fire because he ate a chocolate Easter bunny she wanted. June Carter, 69, said in an interview from jail that she just snapped after 35 years of caring for her husband, Paul, 62, who has been suffering from lung cancer for the past four years and can barely walk. She had to change his nappies regularly and could barely sleep at night because he watched television constantly.

Jailed because she could not raise bail, she said she only meant to scare her husband when she splashed a teaspoonful of rubbing alcohol over him. "I had matches in my hand," she said. "It just went up. I really didn't mean to do it."

Mr Carter was admitted to hospital with third-degree

burns over 30 per cent of his body. "I'd rather go back with him," Mrs Carter said. "I happen to be in love with him."

Even George Bush is showing signs these days of living in fear of the apparently amiable Barbara. Taking a walk on a beach near his holiday home in Maine, President Bush confided in Desert Storm lingo that he was "trying to avoid Barbara's first strike zone". He was objecting to Barbara's efforts to fix up their home at Walker's Point after it was damaged severely by a storm last October. "She puts you to work, moving furniture," Mr Bush complained, with the same vehemence he showed when he disavowed broccoli last year.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE CHANGE

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Syria's failure to defy UN sanctions exposes Arab splits

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PIRIA, rapidly re-emerging as the leader of the radical Arab states, was foiled yesterday by low Arabs and others in its attempt to fly the first United Nations sanctions-breaking flight to Libya.

The failure of the much-anticipated Syrian flight to materialise came as a severe blow to the Libyan regime, increasing its international isolation. It coincided with an announcement from Tripoli that the few Western journalists there must leave and all Arabs working for Western news organisations must cease reporting.

The action against journalists prompted renewed diplomatic speculation that Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was

encountering divisions inside his regime about the handling of the dispute over the two Libyans allegedly involved in the Lockerbie bombing. The Egyptian media have carried a number of reports claiming that Colonel Gaddafi is being upstaged by his hardline deputy, Major Abdel-Salam Jalloud. The reports said the Libyan leader was preventing the Libyan leader from implementing any compromise over the two agents suspected of blowing up the Pan Am jumbo in 1988.

The enforced grounding of the scheduled flight from Damascus to Tripoli was caused by the refusal of Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Tunisia to give the plane, the first publi-

cised attempt to break sanctions, the necessary overflying permission. An official of Syrian Arab Airlines claimed that it would continue to try to obtain permission to fly to Libya. But Arab diplomatic sources said that was unlikely to be granted.

Instead of demonstrating Arab unity, as intended, the attempted flight had proved a public relations disaster, highlighting that members of the 21-strong Arab League (to which Syria and Libya both belong) disagree over the sanctions. An editorial in the Libyan daily *Al-Fajr al-Jadid*, which claimed that the proposed flight was "internal", had a hollow ring. "The Arab nation is one [entity] and flights between its countries are in fact domestic flights which necessitate no interference from international bodies," the paper argued in vain. Last week Egypt rebuffed a Libyan suggestion that the two countries should merge in another attempted way round the sanctions.

As the Syrian plane was failing to make its planned take-off from Damascus, President Assad of Syria was continuing an emergency tour of the oil-rich Gulf states intended to whip up support for Libya from their conservative leaders and to win backing against any future such UN moves against Syria.

Intelligence sources said Mr Assad was disturbed by efforts in the Western media to lay part of the blame for Lockerbie at Syria's door and believed that the Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, carried diplomatic weight in Washington. One Gulf-based diplomat said that Mr Assad's view was "Today Libya, tomorrow Syria". He added that Mr Assad was attempting to secure diplomatic returns for his strong backing for the anti-Iraq coalition during the 1991 Gulf war.

In Damascus, the ruling party's paper *Al-Baath* urged Arabs to unify to confront "the big dangers that followed the establishment of a new world order". The paper added: "Most of what is taking place in the world of today seems to be directed against the Arabs more than others."

Libya's isolation was increased when Middle East Airlines, the national carrier of Lebanon, a country under Syrian influence, announced that it had suspended its weekly flight from Beirut to Tripoli because of problems in obtaining insurance. Cynics said those problems gave Arab countries not wishing to offend Libya a convenient way of abiding by the sanctions while appearing not willing to do so.



Business as usual: a Palestinian businessman and an orthodox Jew shake on a deal in Hebron yesterday near the Cave of the Patriarchs, a holy site visited by hundreds of Jews during the Passover holiday

Israel to reopen rebellious university on West Bank

Classes will resume soon at Bir Zeit campus, a centre of Palestinian resistance, writes Richard Beeston

BIR Zeit University on the West Bank, for 20 years a focus of resistance to the Israeli occupation, will be allowed to reopen this month, after Israeli military authorities lifted a four-year ban on the campus yesterday.

In a surprise announcement, Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said that some classes would be allowed to resume on condition that the university authorities bore responsibility for ensuring that the campus did not become a "focal point of violence".

Albert Aghazarian, the university's spokesman, said that two of the four faculties, engineering and science, would reopen for about half the student body on April 29 on a probationary basis. "We are not euphoric, but it is a step in the right direction," he said.

"We will be under close observation from the army and we will have to endure this absurd Kafkaesque routine until they are satisfied and allow us to reopen the arts and business faculties. However, we are convinced that the students are eager to resume studies and will avoid any unnecessary confrontations."

The move was seen partly as a reaction to the decline in

number of intifada-related incidents and as a possible attempt by the government of Yitzhak Shamir to improve the climate before next week's moribund Middle East peace talks due to open in Washington. The stalled negotiations are likely to be the last before the Israeli general elections on June 23, when Mr Shamir, the prime minister, will be under pressure from the electorate to prove that some benefit has come of the six-month dialogue with the Arabs.

Although the government move is expected to be welcomed in the West, it drew predictable criticism from far-right Israeli politicians, such as the leader of the Mokedet party, Rehavam Zeevi, who said: "The university, like others in the territories, is nothing but an *ulpan* [school] for terrorism out of

which come those who have graduated in the murder and killing of Jews."

Bir Zeit, the most prestigious Palestinian academic institution, was a magnet for anti-Israeli activity long before the authorities closed it down by military order on January 8, 1988, a month after the intifada began.

Located in the picturesque hills of the West Bank, north of Jerusalem, the university first won its radical reputation in November 1974 when its president, Hanna Nash, was deported by the Israeli authorities. In subsequent years both the faculty and the student body were involved in regular confrontations with the army.

Even when the university was closed, and classes for most of the 2,600 students were moved to off-campus facilities in nearby Ramallah, the college still maintained its political credentials within the Palestinian community. When the Middle East peace talks opened in Madrid, for instance, five members of the Palestinian delegation were Bir Zeit professors, most notably Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman and a professor of English.

Sharansky to contest election

BY RICHARD BEESTON

SOFT-SPOKEN Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet refusenik and now a potential candidate in Israel's general elections, has the knack of infuriating those in power.

After nine years in the Soviet gulags as a prisoner of conscience fighting for the right of Jews to emigrate, Israel's most prominent Russian immigrant has turned his guns on the political establishment in Israel, threatening to launch a new party.

Although Mr Sharansky previously has refused to enter politics, declining offers from Likud, Labour and the new Soviet immigrant party, Da, he has declared that he intends to fight the June 23 election in desperation at what he regards as the bankrupt policies of the main parties.

"He wants to fight the election by putting what he sees as the main issues up front, namely the importance of completing the immigration of Russian Jewry and the need to get the Israeli economy working," said his spokeswoman.

Ousted leader can leave Kabul

Kabul: Afghan guerrillas claimed yesterday to control all key cities apart from Kabul as the ousted president, Muhammad Najibullah, prepared to fly out of the country.

The embattled government had agreed in talks with a United Nations envoy to allow Dr Najibullah, deposed last Thursday, to leave and he was likely to fly out later yesterday.

All over the country government forces appeared to be giving up without a fight, preferring to strike a deal with the advancing Mujahidin guerrillas rather than risk a bloodbath.

Officials in Kabul said that the crucial city of Jalalabad — eastern gateway to the capital — was still in government hands, but its commander was negotiating the formation of a coalition with the rebels. A spokesman in the ruling Watan party said that General Afzal Ladin, the garrison commander in Jalalabad, 90 miles east of Kabul, was leading the talks.

Control of Kandahar in the south had already passed into the hands of a coalition of Mujahidin and the local commander. "There was no violence. The Mujahidin agreed not to take their weapons into the city. Kabul is no longer in control," the spokesman said.

The Kabul government, which is surrounded by Mujahidin and weakened by defections, has been forced to negotiate transfers of power in the main cities, but the government is hoping to maintain at least a measure of authority and some bargaining power. (Reuters)

Crew rescued

HONG KONG: A Royal Navy ship, HMS Plover, assisted in the rescue of 26 seamen after an explosion ripped through a 30,000-tonne Liberian-registered oil tanker, killing two of the crew in the South China Sea.

Lava slows Mount Etna: Stiff winds thwarted an attempt by helicopter-borne troops to plug an underground river of lava feeding a tide of molten rock down Mount Etna. But the flow of lava towards the town of Zafferana slowed. (Reuters)

Aid ban eased

NAIROBI: Sudan has eased a two-month ban on relief flights to the rebel-held south where an army offensive is under way, but rebels said people would still be left without food and many thousands face starvation. (AFP)

Leak plugged

CHICAGO: Engineers have plugged the leak in a century-old tunnel that flooded the basements of scores of buildings here, causing 200,000 people to be evacuated. (AFP)

Border squabbles fuel Gulf tension

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE release yesterday of Ali Kafaidei, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Yemen, after being held by a Yemeni gunman for 19 hours in his office in the capital, Sanaa, is the latest of a series of potentially explosive border disputes plaguing the Gulf.

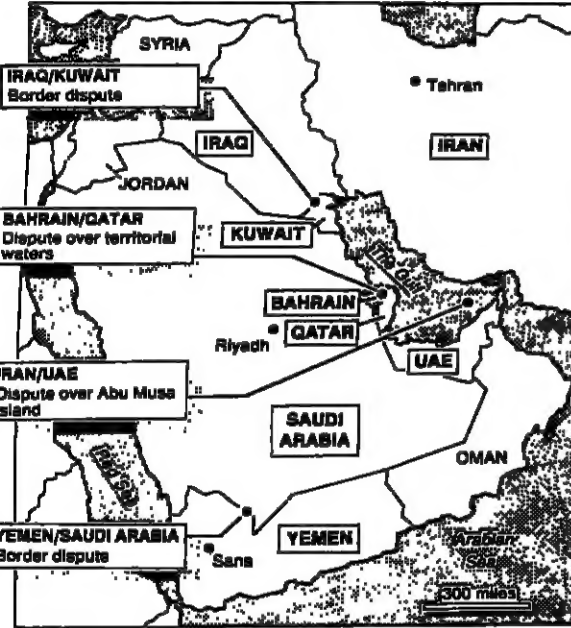
Although the stated motive for the hold-up was a ransom of \$1 million (£600,000), Mr Kafaidei said the gunman claimed to need the cash for an unidentified group. Yemen, which angered the Saudis by backing Iraq, sent in a squad of commandos, one of whom, disguised as a waiter, threw a cup of scalding tea into the gunman's face.

A long-running border dispute between the two nations has been revived this month.

Others have emerged between Bahrain and Qatar and between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. A United Nations border commission last week foreshadowed yet another by giving Kuwait several Iraqi oil wells.

Tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen increased when the Saudis warned two Western oil companies against drilling in a Yemeni-controlled region claimed by Saudi Arabia, which last year expelled a million Yemeni workers and cut aid.

Iran last week denied that it had expelled hundreds of UAE citizens from the once-disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa which it administers jointly with Sharjah, a sheikhdom within the UAE.



Support grows for professional parliament

Deputies want congress laid to rest

NIKOLAI Podgornov, a Russian congress deputy from the northern town of Vologda and the chairman of his local council, left Moscow on Saturday to fend off a strike by agricultural workers at home and he has no intention of coming back.

From Vologda, he said it was time that Russia had a professional parliament.

Congresses, he said, were a waste of time. Too many deputies attended to show off to their constituents — proceedings are broadcast on television — and fewer and fewer decisions were taken.

Rumblings in the lobby and even the occasional speech in the hall demonstrate that Mr Podgornov is not alone in his view that the Congress of People's Deputies as an institution has outlived its usefulness and should be laid to rest. Because of the powers vested in the congress and the balance of political forces in Russia, however, this is more easily said than done.

The Congress of People's Deputies is Russia's supreme legislative body, the only body authorised to change the constitution. The standing parliament, whose membership is rotated annually among deputies, does not have this right.

President Yeltsin, like Mikhail Gorbachev before him, has indicated repeatedly that he wants to enact reforms within the bounds of the constitution. The constitution in its present form does not give the president the right to dissolve congress. Unless he can per-

While some deputies consider congress to be a waste of time, it still determines Russia's future structure and reforms, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

suaide the congress to dissolve itself, Mr Yeltsin must continue to call, and heed, the congress — or encourage it to delegate its powers to the standing parliament.

Mr Yeltsin's reputation also requires him to act within the constitution. Abroad, though, to a far lesser extent at home, his democratic credentials have been suspect. Were he unilaterally to dissolve the congress and rule by decree, this would confirm people's worst suspi-

cions and halt much Western goodwill, as well as aid.

Some would argue that the deputies, who were elected two years ago, are no longer representative of opinion across the country. This may be true. Nonetheless, they were elected, and many have significant local powerbases.

The position of Mr Yeltsin and his government is not so strong that he can ignore these local empires without risking his authority.

Finally, the questions

under discussion at this congress, the first since Russia became a fully independent state, are crucial issues of principle, which will determine Russia's future structure. They concern the power of the executive against the legislature, the power of the centre against the regions and the nature of the presidency.

As all sides appreciate, one tiny amendment in the hand of a wily drafter can change the balance of power in Russia at least until the next congress, and perhaps for good. That is why the congress has lasted 13 days already, and has at least one more day to go — and why Mr Podgornov might have done better to stay the course.



Songs of praise: Muscovites singing their support for President Yeltsin, who has been under attack from deputies at the people's congress

Fuel cost soars in Moscow

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

MOSCOW motorists were shocked to discover yesterday morning that prices of petrol and diesel fuel had quintupled overnight. Filling up the most common Lada car will now cost the unheard-of sum of 240 roubles.

Eduard Grushevenko, the Russian minister of fuel and energy, insisted that the price change should not be seen as an increase, but rather as an adjustment to compensate for increased production costs. He said he did not envisage the need for further rises.

The immediate decision to raise retail prices for petrol rests with the city council, which buys fuel in bulk from the producers and could choose to subsidise the cost if it had the money. Some cities raised petrol prices before Moscow, which gave them priority in supplies. Other regions now have little alternative but to fall into line.

While Moscow's drivers were complaining, petrol is still the cheapest aspect of motoring in Russia, and cheap by international standards as well. A private car here is still a luxury. Even before retail prices were freed in January, few could afford a car.

Most had to buy second-hand cars on the unofficial market, at prices of 15,000 to 20,000 roubles for a Lada and more for other models. Cars therefore cost about 50 times the average monthly salary in Russia, compared with about five times in Britain. Petrol costs a fraction of what it does in Britain.

Yeltsin to reshuffle government

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was preparing a further reorganisation of government and presidential structures yesterday to fulfil his half of the bargain struck earlier with the parliamentary opposition. He is expected to appoint a new prime minister within three months, cut his presidential staff and name a new deputy prime minister acceptable to parliament.

Mr Yeltsin outlined his proposals to leaders of parliamentary factions yesterday and is expected to announce details at the closing session of the Congress of People's Deputies, probably today. Opponents had condemned him for combining the posts of president and prime minister, arguing that this contravened the constitutional separation of powers. A resolution gave Mr Yeltsin three months to change the structure of the government, but a subsequent declaration appeared to allow him to retain the prime minister's post until December.

Mr Yeltsin may be gambling that the chief of the economic reform programme, Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, will be strong enough by then to occupy the post in his own right. During the congress, Mr Gaidar has been a tireless defender of the controversial reforms and an opinion poll in Moscow after the government had threatened to resign unless its reforms were continued, found that Mr Gaidar's popularity rating had risen ten points from 35 to 45 per cent since the start of the congress.

The promised cuts in the president's staff come in answer to criticism that the pow-

ers granted to Mr Yeltsin were being used less by the president than by his bloated apparatus, which is not subject to parliamentary control.

Those who had hoped to extend yesterday's congress discussion to include claims to the whole Black Sea fleet and the Crimea were disappointed. The chairman said it would not be wise to raise passions now, two days before talks are due to begin in Odessa.

In Kiev, President Krav-

chuk gave his bluntest warning yet to activists campaigning for an independence referendum in the Crimea, warning of "catastrophe" if the peninsula secedes from Ukraine. He called for Crimeans to ignore the powerful separatist movement. "The referendum will be a tragic way to split the Crimea. What this will lead to and what harm it can do no one can predict," he said.

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Pictures at an exposition: King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain inaugurated Expo '92, where balloons representing participant states were released. A demonstrator protesting over police action was arrested

Expo opening gives Spain reason to celebrate growth

FROM ROBERT HART IN SEVILLE

TO THE thunder of fireworks and the chiming of church bells across Seville, the Expo '92 world fair was formally opened yesterday by King Juan Carlos of Spain. Balloons with the flags of the 110 participating countries rose into the sky and 5,000 pigeons were released.

"The universal exposition of Seville is the greatest exposition in history, not only in terms of size... but also in terms of the diversity and quality of activities," King Juan Carlos said.

Expo '92 is the first spectacular of Spain's 1992 celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World. The Olympic Games in Barcelona in July and August will be the other big international event.

The opening ceremony took place in sunshine on newly-laid lawns outside a

restored 15th century monastery on the edge of the site on Seville's Cartuja island. Against a backdrop of futuristic canopies, domes and spires of pavilions built of steel, glass, bronze and wood, the king greeted Felipe Gonzalez, the prime minister, and his cabinet before reviewing a troop of the royal guard.

Some 10,000 police and 3,000 private security men were on duty in and around Seville and on the Expo site. Basque separatists have threatened to target Expo, but their attacks this year have been concentrated in Barcelona and Madrid.

Opponents of Spain's Columbus commemorations, who see 1492 as the start of centuries of colonialist repression, grappled with police at one of the gates to the site during the ceremony. On Sunday night at least three people were injured in central

Seville when, according to witnesses, police fired live bullets at a crowd of about 100 protesters.

The exhibition, expected to receive some 18 million visitors during its six-month run, is seen by Spain as a chance to show itself the equal of its European partners in technological, organisational and imaginative verve. "This exposition, which we bid for in 1982 and won in 1983, has witnessed the development and consolidation of Spanish democracy," Señor González said. "It has been witness to our economic advance, the modernisation of Spain, the increase in prosperity of our people, our integration into the European Community and our total involvement in all international forums."

When Expo closes on October 12, several multinational companies will stay to set up a technology park. (Reuters)

Winnie Mandela fighting back

Winnie Mandela is fighting to rescue her political career as an activist. She is still "Mother of the Nation" to thousands of township youths radicalised by state repression. The estranged wife of the ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, faces the next formal test of her popularity on May 3, when her region of the African National Congress Women's League elects office holders.

Hungary's first representative at the Miss Universe contest, being held this year in Bangkok, has said she does not want to win. Dora Fatka, aged 19, said a year as Miss Universe would take her away from her studies to be a teacher.

Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has been in

Morocco to discuss Libya's conflict with the West and Middle East peace talks with King Hassan.

Salemaa Afisanee, known in Japan as Koushiki, a 557lb Samoan-American seeking to become Japan's first foreign grand champion sumo wrestler, blames racial discrimination for his failure.



Atisano: blames discrimination

US mulls break with Belgrade

THE United States is considering breaking off diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia to underline its opposition to Serbian aggression against the breakaway republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state department official said yesterday.

The official said much would depend on talks in Belgrade this week between Ralph Johnson, the American deputy assistant secretary of state, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader. Mr Johnson had to decide whether it was worth preserving any dialogue with Belgrade, he said.

The American embassy in Belgrade is still accredited to Yugoslavia even though it is now reduced to two of its former six constituent republics — Serbia and Montenegro. The diplomat said that if Washington broke its links with Belgrade, it would not be able to transfer recognition to Serbia because of Belgrade's aggression and its record on

As the Americans argue with the Serbs, Greece disputes the claims of Macedonia, Chris Eliou writes

human rights. If Washington breaks off ties, it could put Belgrade's membership of international organisations in jeopardy. Yugoslav treasury officials flew to the United States yesterday to try to head off any attempts to exclude them from the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, the Greek government stepped up its efforts to avert recognition by the European Community of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Failure to find a face-saving formula could lead to the collapse of the government of Constantine Mitsotakis midway through its four-year term.

Mr Mitsotakis has had emergency consultations in Athens with Gianni De Michelis and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Italian and German foreign ministers. Yesterday he met Joao de Deus Pinheiro, their Portuguese counterpart, and meets Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, in Athens on Thursday.

Athens has blocked Community recognition on the ground that the use of the name implies territorial claims on its northern province of the same name, and is seeking to hold the EC to a three-point agreement reached by foreign ministers last December. The agreement requires Skopje, the capital of the Yugoslav republic, to adopt constitutional and political guarantees that it has no territorial claims and to avoid use of a name that would imply such claims.

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POWER AND PROTEST

After the Conservatives' fourth general election victory in a row, not just the Labour party is despairing. Several groups that had seen salvation in a Labour government are now talking about extra-parliamentary action. Yesterday the Scottish TUC president, Jane McKay, hinted that civil disobedience should be planned in Edinburgh to coincide with the EC summit. Other Scots want to organise a referendum on self-government. And teachers at the Easter NUT conference only narrowly voted down a boycott of the government's plans for teacher appraisal.

Some groups traditionally feel uncomfortable with a Conservative government: trade unions, the unemployed, sociologists, council tenants, Scots, the Welsh. Others have been newly alienated over the past 13 years, partly because Margaret Thatcher delighted in taking on entrenched interests, but also because any reforming government that lasts for that long is bound to make new enemies. To the old list can be added some doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, academics, local authorities, civil servants and most of the arts world.

British politics used to be self-regulating. If an interest group lost out under one party, it could reasonably expect the other party to win power before too long and redress the grievance. But by the next election, these "losers" could have been at the wrong end of government policy for 18 years, with no certainty even then of a change.

Political parties have tended to believe that, even with an electoral system that gives them majorities in the Commons with a minority of the vote, they have a mandate to enact their manifesto commitments once in power. That is a fair argument when government regularly changes hands. But when one party holds power for a generation, it should perhaps become more sensitive to those who are not its natural supporters.

The Scots and Welsh have the strongest case. Not since 1955 have the Scots voted predominantly Conservative, and the Welsh have never done so this century. Yet for 26 of the 37 years since 1955, they have been ruled from Whitehall by Tories. The usual argu-

ment in a democracy against dissenters taking power into their own hands is that, if they want change, they must vote for it. In this year's election, 74 per cent of Scots and 71 per cent of the Welsh voted for parties that promised either devolution or independence. Yet self-government is still denied them. No wonder they are frustrated.

Local authorities' too are understandably angry about the seizure of their power by the centre. Their democratic credentials are no less legitimate than those of central government, yet their autonomy has been whittled away by one law after another.

Other interest groups, such as teachers or farmers, have less of a case. When teachers claim that career appraisal should not penalise poor performers, they are arguing against the interests of the pupils they are supposed to serve. When farmers complain about the dismantling of an agricultural policy that has subsidised them for decades at the expense of everybody who buys food, they too are arguing selfishly.

The government need not give in to such special pleading. But if John Major wants a classless society and a country at ease with itself, he must acknowledge that the grievances of some of the groups that have been left in the cold by a Conservative government are legitimate. With a fourth parliamentary term come extra responsibilities.

Mr Major is clearly beginning to realise this. In the last Budget, he gave disproportionate help to those on low incomes. He has appointed conciliators to see through the education and health reforms. But he still has to rethink the distribution of power within Britain.

The longer the Conservatives remain in government, the more the country needs pluralism at other levels. In its reform of local government, Mr Major should be generous in handing powers back to local people. And he can no longer completely ignore the strength of the Welsh and Scottish calls for self-government. Democracy can still thrive when one party rules, but only if it is a party for all the nation.

RESCUING GATT

The world has never had more riding on a rapid resumption of strong economic growth. Without it, Eastern Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union have scant hope of extricating themselves from the mess bequeathed them by communism; nor will the countries in Latin America and Africa which have embarked on equally ambitious economic reforms find the markets they need for export-led recovery. Stability in Europe, key to President Bush's new world order and Jacques Delors' ambitions for enlarging the European Community, depends on a robust expansion in output and trade.

The Americans, worried that the US economy could slip back into the recession from which it is emerging, will appeal to the Group of Seven finance ministers in Washington on Thursday to join in a co-ordinated strategy to boost growth this year beyond the inadequate 1.5 per cent predicted by the International Monetary Fund. But they will be wasting their breath unless the US and the EC first succeed, tomorrow at the White House, in breaking their deadlock over farm subsidies. This trivial and unnecessary dispute — trivial because agriculture is the key to prosperity for neither side, unnecessary because so little now divides them — is wrecking the prospects for concluding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations and with it, the world's best hope of an export-led boom.

Tomorrow's meeting brings together Mr Bush, Mr Delors and Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister of Portugal, currently president of the EC. These three have the power to succeed where their technicians have been failing for more than five years. The Americans, who have already given much ground, may offer further assurances to the EC on one of the points at issue, the EC's insistence that it must be free to pay its farmers direct income support as part of its plans to reform the common agricultural policy. But there will be no deal unless Mr Delors decides to put Europe's well-being above whatever ambitions he nurtures for his future career in French politics, and over-

rides the objections of Paris to the very principle of freeing agricultural trade.

A week ago, Mr Delors told Mr Bush that the two sides were "very close" to agreement. Days later, his spokesman was saying that nothing indicated that an accord could be reached in Washington. There could be no clearer indication that the obstacle is political, not technical. Mr Delors seems no more courageous than the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, when it comes to facing down the French. Here CAP reform and GATT merge. Mr Delors knows better than anyone that the EC must rid itself of the corruption and economic lunacy of its farm policy for the sake of its consumers, its unemployed, and its competitiveness on world markets. He should be seizing on the GATT negotiations as an opportunity to hasten CAP reform, particularly since the GATT proposals are broadly compatible with that objective.

A saner agricultural policy would be a gain in itself. But the stakes in the Uruguay Round are vastly greater. The EC, which accounts for 40 per cent of world trade, cannot afford to put at risk the liberal post-war trading system. Delay in concluding the round is already affecting business confidence, as 120 of the world's leading corporations gave warning last week. The surge of protectionism that would accompany its collapse could cost the EC £80 billion a year in higher consumer prices, to say nothing of lost jobs in export industries. And the EC should not fool itself that there can be a deal without a firm commitment on farm trade: it is the loadstone of European good faith for too many of the 108 countries involved.

This negotiation is the responsibility of the European Commission, not its 12 member states. It is a test, so far miserably failed, of collective EC foreign policy. The whole six-year negotiation is starting to unravel, and Mr Bush is running out of the negotiating time granted him by Congress. Mr Delors has grand dreams for the EC. This week will show whether he has the statesmanship to end the dispute that puts all of them in jeopardy.

AID FOR AIDS

Live Aid, the 1985 rock concert to help victims of famine in Africa, astonished the world with its energy, idealism and commitment to the cause of the starving in faraway lands. The performance of the night was by Queen, whose star, Freddie Mercury, put on a show of such stunning intensity that the band's album shot back to the top of the charts. How apt and poignant therefore that last night's Wembley spectacular should be in memory of the man whose death in November has done more than any number of pious government campaigns to bring home to young people the tragedy of AIDS.

The canonisation of Mercury may be mawkish, the accolades overdone. As a singer and flamboyant stage presence he was unsurpassed, but as a role model he gave scant encouragement to AIDS activists, refusing until only a day before his death to acknowledge publicly that he had AIDS. Yet knowledge publicly that he had AIDS. Yet Queen was right to come together again to eulogise his memory. Channeling the grief of millions of fans, the band has personalised a cause that, like starvation, apartheid or the Kurds, would otherwise have left most indifferent.

AIDS may be modish in Hollywood but it is still so taboo that most pop singers have shunned AIDS charities. That changed yesterday. The parade of personalities on stage was like a rock *Who's Who*. Even Mrs Larry Fortensky, better known as Elizabeth

Taylor, was there to add glitz and the moral authority of her AIDS campaigning.

Wembley charity spectaculars are becoming an annual fixture in the rock world. Everyone benefits. The stars can afford to play for free because the publicity is more than money can buy and the glow of having contributed to a good cause disarms many a barbed criticism of an often exploitative and amoral lifestyle. Charities see a way of getting their message across to millions, swaying public opinion and raising substantial sums from television and video rights. Fans can indulge for three hours in some of the best in rock, which can now be broadcast to a billion people simultaneously.

Britain has discovered a talent for these global spectaculars. As with the London marathon, British organisers are experienced, know the market and can turn a burst of enthusiasm into a properly costed operation. English is overwhelmingly the language of pop, and British groups are still among the world's best. Britain is in the right time-zone to broadcast both east and west.

The Wembley charity rock concerts mix the untapped idealism of thousands of ordinary people with their determination to have a good time. They play publicity for the huge sums it is worth. And in a cynical world, the global message performs an almost evangelising function in raising awareness of other people's suffering.

Election perspective as dust settles

From Mr P. H. Twyman

Sir, Your leader of April 15, "As the dust settles", touches upon an aspect of the general election campaign which has been missed by the pollsters and the pundits.

The Conservative party campaign from the centre may have seemed a shambles, as you say; but down at the "grass roots", in most individual constituencies, the local party machinery operated by voluntary workers worked extremely effectively.

As a party activist with connections throughout the country, I can say that the voluntary effort was much better organised than the general election of 1987 or the European elections of 1989. Volunteers were better trained. Mutual aid, whereby strong constituencies helped in the margins, was much better co-ordinated.

The result was that any waverers amongst known Conservative supporters were persuaded to vote for the party by a succession of "knockers up" calling on them throughout the day. One cannot help thinking that this effort, as much as glibly advertising or "spin-doctoring", led to the Conservative successes in marginal constituencies.

Yours etc.

P. H. TWYMAN,
Thrift House,
120 Minnis Road,
Birmingham, Kent.
April 15.

From Dr Stephen Howe

Sir, Dr Brian Harrison (letter, April 15) is rightly respected as one of the finest historians of modern Britain. It is saddening, therefore, that at a time when constitutional traditionalism and the reforming impulse are increasingly sharply composed, he should be found defending the last ditch of tradition.

His proposal for an anti-Conservative pact in order to preserve our present electoral and constitutional arrangements is simply perverse. Such a pact would have no principled basis. It would be seen by the electorate, and doubtless rejected, for what it would be: a cynical and desperate ploy by politicians united only in their anti-Toryism.

The only viable ground for a Labour/Lib Dem/Nationalist alliance is quite the reverse: united on an agreed programme of electoral and constitutional reform and making the next election, in effect, a referendum on such proposals.

Dr Harrison's contention that the constitutional status quo "maximises the political impact of the vote" is simply untrue. At best, it maximises and distorts the impact of a small number of floating voters in a handful of marginal seats. And to say that it "accords with our parliamentary and national traditions" is a mere tautology.

Dr Harrison does not mention Scotland. Possibly the climate of opinion there is so wildly at odds with

his nostalgic view of constitutional consensus that he cannot bear to look at it too closely. And perhaps he might ask himself why not only the Scottish Constitutional Convention, but also all Europe's most successful economies and every democratic reform movement in the world, from eastern Europe to southern Africa, have opted for proportional electoral systems, written constitutions and entrenched bills of rights.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN HOWE,
Ruskin College,
Walton Street, Oxford.
April 15.

From Mr Martin Rewcastle

Sir, Your third leader ("Fun and games", April 13) questions the need for a secretary of state for national heritage and assumes that the job does not hold together.

At last what are often called the cultural industries are to be viewed as a whole. Lack of such an overview has clouded UK policy and led to innumerable bodies with self-interests but without real evidence of productivity. Moreover, the post brings together the subsidy industry.

Mr Mellor is in an ideal position to review the tired idea of revenue subvention, which helped to re-establish postwar Britain but does not serve us well now, especially when capital is sorely needed.

From subsidies variously applied by various departments, Mr Mellor might be able to establish a national investment policy, embracing broadcasting, the arts, national treasures and pastimes. This assumes a tough and intelligent discussion of public cultural investment. There will be angst in London's patronage committees. A ministry for fun? Hardly likely.

If proper cultural investment does replace patronage, there will be, as you state, no need for a secretary of state to interfere directly, so long as actual decisions are taken by and decentralised to regional or local partnerships.

Mr Mellor has a real opportunity. It will be interesting to see if he takes it.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN REWCASTLE,
30 Little Knowle,
Budeigh Saltern, Devon.
April 13.

From Dr R. van den Brink-Budgen

Sir, We are told that the Conservative party won the election because its message on tax "got through". Is the whole democratic process, in which we take such fierce pride, in whose defence we have fought long and bloody wars, in which we place such trust and hope for good government, nothing more, then, than a crude method of measuring the degree of our reluctance to open our wallets?

Yours faithfully,

ROY van den BRINK-BUDGEN,
27a Warrington Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

on Mr Kinnock, ably assisted by the Tory tabloids?

Yours faithfully,
R. BALA SUPERAMANIAM,
30 Lichfield Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr E. F. Smith

Sir, The letter from Mr Robert Adley suggests that Mr Kinnock was wide of the mark when he called him a jerk. Mr Kinnock was too kind.

Yours truly,

ERNEST SMITH,
Red House, 90 Drift Road,
Clanfield, Hampshire.

Neil-jerk reaction?

From Mr R. Bela Superamaniam

Sir, Mr Robert Adley, MP, refers in his letter (April 18) to an angry Mr Kinnock calling him a jerk in the House and the electorate then coolly passing judgment on Mr Kinnock at the general election.

In the same vein, is it correct to assume that the Bath electorate passed the same judgment on Mr Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, who spearheaded his party's campaign with vicious personal attacks

Bosnia on the brink

From Mr Martin Place

Sir, In your leader of April 10, "Bosnia on the brink", you claim that "neither Serbia nor Croatia have dropped their earlier designs on the territories inhabited by their ethnic kinsmen". The fact is that Croatia has officially recognised Bosnia as an independent state within its present borders.

What you define as territorial designs of the Croatian government, someone more benevolent might interpret as the legitimate interest in the well being of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in case it is forced into some rump Yugoslavia against the will of the majority of its citizens.

After all, it has not been long since we went into a war in order to protect the interests of much fewer British citizens in the Falklands than there are Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Caught in the EC maw

From Mr Lucian Comoy

Sir, There has been much made recently of the political advantages and problems of being "European", but very little about how things are at grass-roots level for an EC citizen moving abroad. When I moved to France my papers took one week over several lunch hours. I have now lived in Italy for two years and have not succeeded in converting the multitude of papers both countries require.

An example: my GB driving licence is exactly the same as the Italian one (EC model), yet I cannot instantly convert it as I did in France. I must take two days off work and collect two medical certificates from different public bodies, one residence certificate and four photographs, one of them certified.

Furthermore, I must translate the licence and take it before a tribunal to swear I did it accurately (no actual translation necessary: I shall copy an

Italian one which is identical). The next step is to procure a certificate declaring I have never been to jail. Then I go to another office which takes all of this, my tax number, passport details and the equivalent of £90 and makes me wait six months, during which time I have no right to drive as I have no licence.

What can be the point of the Brussels mandarins waving their wands if countries such as Italy are allowed to maintain this obstructiveness in the face of straightforward requests from EC citizens?

Brussels would gain more credibility in its avowed federalist aims if it did something to force some change on these byzantine bureaucracies which remain accountable to no one, least of all the poor individuals caught in their maw.

Yours faithfully,

LUCIAN COMOY,
via Montemonte 27,
Piazzano,
15020 Fr. Castelsanpietro AL, Italy.

Extended rights of audience in court

From Mr Clive R. Kelly

Sir, I am a solicitor, admitted in 1957, employed in commerce and industry, with no strong desire to blossom into active advocacy — although with some modest experience. Professionally, I am able to be employed and to engage in private practice.

The Griffiths committee, I assume, would accept my appearing in a higher court for a private client, but not for my employer. What an insult to my employer's choice of professional representation. What an impertinence to my professional integrity. No wonder that lawyers in jurisdictions with enjoyment of dual rights of audience view us with varying airs of disbelief!

The reasoning in your leader, "An unjustified bar" (April 15) is correct. To conclude otherwise would indeed confirm Dickens's view that, if so, "the Law is a Ass!"

Yours faithfully,
C. R. KELLY,
22 Aylestone Avenue, NW6.
April 17.

From Mr Paul Thomas and Mr Robert M. Downey

Sir, Whilst we fully support the view expressed by the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee that advocates need to show the necessary objectivity and expertise, solicitors in local government and in commerce and industry frequently demonstrate these qualities by their appearance in courts and tribunals throughout England and Wales.

The suggestion that they lack them, and that they should therefore be deprived of rights of audience in the higher courts, is extraordinary and must be strongly refuted. All solicitors have to respect the Law Society's professional code of conduct and are paid to do their best for their clients within the law.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL THOMAS
(Chairman,
Local Government Group),
R. M. DOWNEY
(Chairman,
Commerce and Industry Group),
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
April 17.

From Mr M. G. J. Hine

Sir, You decry as a "hollow point" the view of the Griffiths committee that employed solicitors, by virtue of their employment, could not show the requisite degree of impartiality and objectivity to exercise rights of advocacy in the higher courts. As a justification for this view, you refer to the sanction available to the Law Society (more accurately, I believe, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, a branch of the High Court) to strike off a miscreant solicitor.

Quite rightly, before a solicitor (whether employed or in private practice) is struck off, a complaint of

some weight and particularity has to be made out and the solicitor afforded an opportunity to respond. The progress of an employed solicitor's career can also be impeded by an unfavourable management perception of his performance which might not be conveyed to him, still less particularised.

Which of these factors do you suppose has a more immediate relevance to an employed solicitor's daily professional conduct?

Doing one's best for the client sometimes involves giving unpalatable and robust advice, which is best given at arm's length. An independent solicitor may thereby lose one client. An employed solicitor may lose his job; but more likely, and more perniciously, he may unwittingly damage his career prospects with that employer.

As one who was formerly employed as a solicitor in local government and is now in private practice, I have an appreciation of what are very real problems. They may be capable of being resolved; but, first, they must be recognised as being of some substance and not simply dismissed as being "hollow".

Yours faithfully,

GREGORY HINE,
Michael Hayes, Hine & Co.
(Solicitors),
58 Leigh Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire.
April 15.

From Mr Stephen Hall-Jones

Sir, If we at the Bar are to survive as a separate profession, we shall have to tailor our "products" to meet the changing circumstances by developing new services, widening the range of our existing services and increasing the depth of our specialisations.

Litigation support and trial management is one possible area of expansion; the *ad hoc* supply of advisory services on a transactional basis is another. Even in criminal practice there will still be a need for specialist, freelance consultant advocates in fields such as business crime and other offences requiring more technical and forensic skills than the average generalist advocate can bring to the table.

Generalist work, whether in the advisory or advocacy fields, will inevitably be conducted by solicitors and solicitor-advocates. Provided, however, that barriers are willing to turn to work which does not always involve in-court advocacy but demands a broader mix of specialist advisory, advocacy and other consultancy services in contentious matters, there will continue to be a demand for such services and a justification for an independent Bar.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

your obedient servant,
STEPHEN HALL-JONES,
3 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.
April 17.

Bridge over the Arno

From Professor Emeritus Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, John Phillips reports from Rome (April 14) that "during the second world war German troops blew up other bridges across the Arno... but did not consider the narrow Ponte Vecchio [in Florence] of sufficient strategic value to warrant destruction."

Though true that the Ponte Vecchio was not totally destroyed, like its neighbours to east and west, it was nevertheless damaged by the extensive demolition of the buildings upon it. The shops were wrecked and mined and booby-trapped. German explosive charges also created a mountain of rubble to obstruct the immediate approaches.

If buses must be routed along the Arno adjoining the Ponte Vecchio one must hope that urgent attention is given to its safe-guarding. In Oxford there is concern about damage to ancient buildings from buses, but the latter were fortunately never subject to wartime high explosives of comparable force.

Yours truly,

KENNETH KIRKWOOD,
233 Woodstock Road,
Oxford.
April 14.

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, Your Rome correspondent states that during the Allied advance in the second world war the Germans did not consider the narrow Ponte Vecchio in Florence of sufficient strategic value to warrant destruction.

I venture to think that it had great strategic value which the Germans countered, not by blowing up the bridge itself, which was a magnificent antiquity, but by blowing up the apartment blocks at the north end of the bridge, thus blocking the north road with rubble ten feet deep.

I, as a British army liaison officer with the Americans, on whose sector of the front Florence lay, well remember my vehicle nosed into the rubble, climbing over, and entering Florence on foot.

Yours faithfully,

C. BEATTIE,
1 The Gatehouse,
27 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
April 14.

Business letters, page 17

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Village shops

From Councillor M. R. Bishop

Sir, Some councils adopted the Test Valley borough council's business-rate rebate scheme for village shops (report, April 15; letter, April 18) quite a while ago.

My own district council, Rother, introduced such a scheme in 1980-1, when it was Conservative-controlled, and it has continued to operate it since, despite losing its Conservative majority.

The tests for eligibility are financial hardship within a business, the loss of which would result in exceptional hardship to local residents. The relief granted has ranged from 50 per cent to 100 per cent. Of this, three quarters of the value is, by law, financed from the national business-rate pool, and one quarter by the district's chargepayers.

With only a single exception (an edge-of-town neighbourhood store), the sole beneficiaries have been our traditional village shops and/or sub-post offices. Councillors elsewhere should, indeed, follow these examples.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL BISHOP,
Combe House,
Beckley, Rye, East Sussex.

Man of Kent

From Mr Michael Wickenden

Sir, Political correspondents cannot be expected to be as knowledgeable as the prime minister on the subject of cricket; but a reference to Alfred Mynn, the lion of Kent, as a "Surrey cricketer" ("Reshaped cabinet sets out priorities", April 16) surely requires correction.

Mynn (1807-1861) was born at Goudhurst on the Kentish Weald, and according to the *Dictionary of National Biography* he played 99 matches for Kent. In leading the county team to pre-eminence for over 20 years he came to be regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of his time, playing for the All-England XI from 1846 to 1854. Eventually he impoverished himself through his devotion to the game.

Mynn now lies in the village churchyard at Thurnham, below the North Downs. As a popular ode recalls:

As the changing seasons pass,
As our champion lies sleeping under
The Kentish grass,

Proudly, sadly we will name him —
To forget him were a sin.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WICKENDEN,
20 Frankland Crescent,
Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

Birthdays

The Queen celebrates her birthday today.

Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 60; Professor Gerald Benney, gold and silversmith, 62; Mr Tom Burns, former editor, *The Tablet*, 86; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 76; the Earl of Derby, 74; Mr Laurence Ellis, rector, Edinburgh Academy, 60; Sir Eric Faulkner, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 78; Mr Marshall Sir John Hunter-Tod, 75; Sir Robin Ince, deputy chairman, Lloyds Bank, 66; Mr John McCabe, former director, London College of Music, 53; Dr Halldan Mahler, former director-general, WHO, 69; Mr John Mortimer, QC, barrister, playwright and author, 69; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 50; Sir Raymond Potter, former chairman, Halifax Building Society, 76; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 77; the Earl of Verulam, 40.

Marriage

Mr A.C. Bragg and Miss M.E.C. Mroczek. The marriage took place on Monday, April 20, at St Etheldreda's Church, London between Mr Andrew Bragg, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Bragg, of Cambridge and Miss Mary Mroczek, daughter of Mrs Peggy Mroczek, of Wimbledon.

Thanksgiving services

Earl Spencer. A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Edward John, 8th Earl Spencer will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday, May 19. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets in writing to The Rector's Secretary, Room 19, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, by no later than May 1. Tickets will be posted on May 12. Admission to the service will be by ticket only. All are welcome to apply for tickets.

Prince George of Cambridge. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Prince George of Cambridge will be held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at noon on Friday, May 1, 1992.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jan van Riebeck, surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, Netherlands, 1619; Charlotte Brontë, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; DEATHS: St Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1108; Peter Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Richmond, Surrey, 1509;

Bomber pilot's medal could fetch £60,000

A YOUNG RAF pilot's Victoria Cross, awarded posthumously after the first thousand-bomber raid over Germany in the second world war, is expected to make up to £60,000 at Christie's in London on Friday (John Shaw writes).

Flying Officer Leslie Manser was just 20 when he took part in the raid on Cologne on May 30, 1942 but his aircraft was caught in search lights and badly damaged by German flak. While the target was bombed successfully, evasive action failed to throw off the lights and anti-aircraft fire, according to a citation in the *London Gazette*.

The rear gunner was wounded and the front cabin filled with smoke. Pilot and crew could have escaped by parachute but Manser tried

to save the Avro Manchester and its men from falling into enemy hands.

As the plane headed for home, it began to lose height and when a crash was inevitable he ordered the crew to bale out. The citation said: "A sergeant handed him a parachute but he waved it away, telling the non-commissioned officer to jump at once as he could only hold the plane steady a few seconds more."

"While the crew were descending to safety they saw the aircraft still carrying their gallant captain plunge to earth and burst into flames."

The Manchester crashed near the Dutch border and four of the crew eventually got back to Britain. Details of Manser's courage emerged from their debriefing and the VC was awarded in October 1942.

DEATHS

AMBERSON. On April 16th peacefully in Llanwrthwl, Carmarthenshire, Mr. John Amberson, 89 years, formerly of Llanwrthwl, Carmarthenshire, died at home. Burial service at St. John's Church, Llanwrthwl, on Friday, April 19th, at 11.00 am. Flowers by family.

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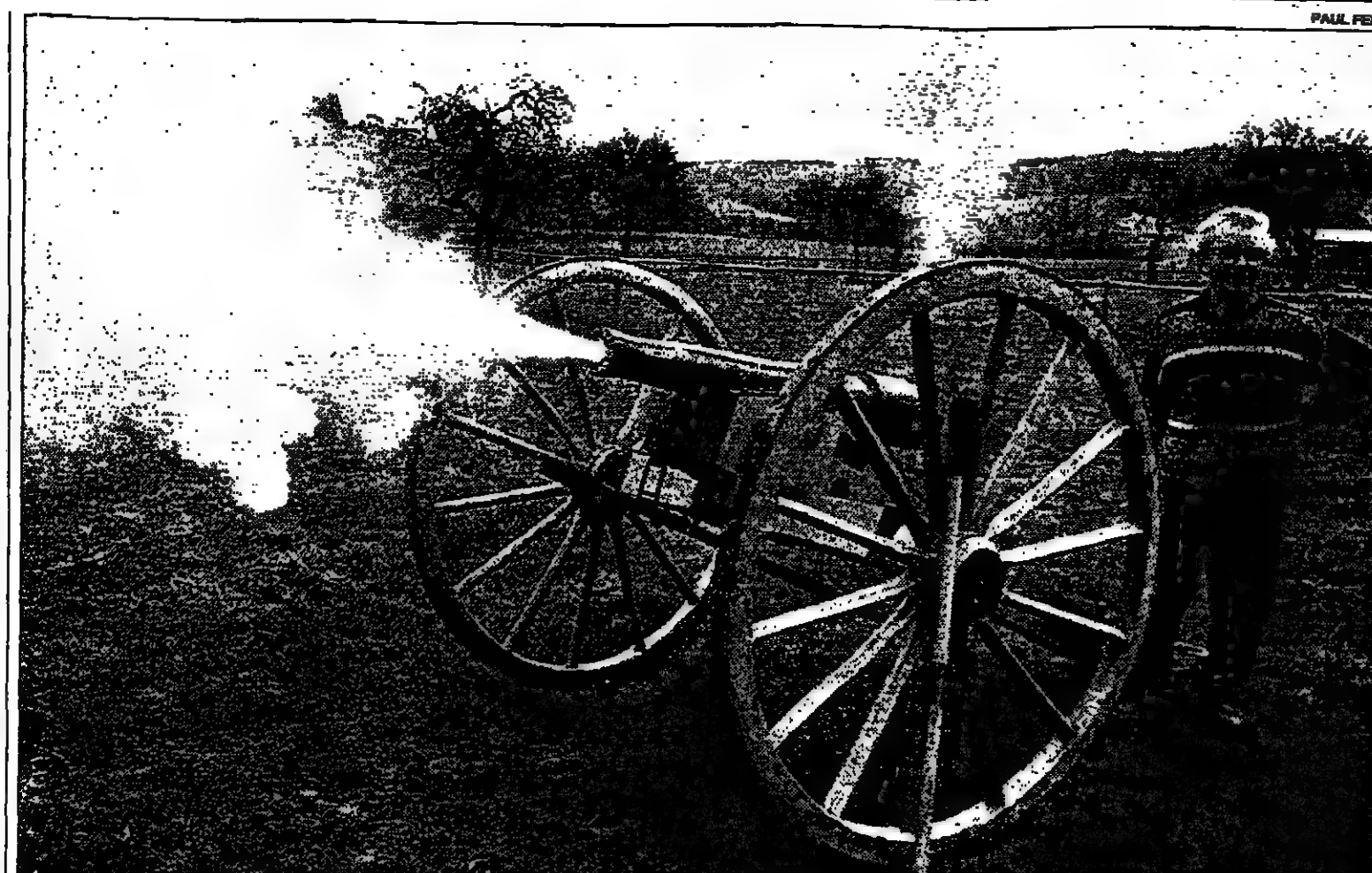
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Gerry Sweeney tests a replica of an American civil war cannon made by his two-man firm at Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds. Mr Sweeney will supply replicas of firearms from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries and has just begun an Elizabethan culverin.

School announcements

Benenden School. Term starts today at Benenden School. Senior's Day will be held on May 16 and Speech Day will take place on July 4.

The King's School, Canterbury. Summer Term begins today. The Annual Choral Concert will take place in the cathedral on May 9. King's week will run from June 25 until July 1. The Open Day will be June 26 (details from the Headmaster's Secretary). Speech Day is Thursday, July 2 when the Anniversary Preacher will be the Reverend Dr Charles Elliott, Dean of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Moirs House, Eastbourne. Summer term begins today and ends on Saturday, July 4. Dr John Clarke and Mrs Kenneth Macdonald have joined the Governing body. Sarah Hobbs (formerly of the Duke of Kent Preparatory School) and Alex Hawkins (formerly of St. Bede's Preparatory School) have been elected the new School Knights. The School will continue its involvement with the Pilkington Tennis Tournament at Devonshire Park from June 13 to 16. Founders' Day is on Saturday June 20, when the guest speaker

will be David Hicks, MBE, former Director-General of the English-Speaking Union and General Director of the International Shakespeare Globe Centre. The School is supporting a local competitor, David Johnson, in the British Steel Round the World Yacht Race, and he will visit the school on Monday, June 29.

The Princess Helena College. Summer term begins today and ends on July 1. The Speech Day and Garden Party is on June 20, and the Guest Speaker is Dr Mary Archer. The Summer Ball is on June 27. For details please contact the Secretary at the College.

Reed's School, Colchester. Summer term begins on Tuesday, April 21 and ends on Saturday, July 4. Peter Knight is Captain of School and Matthew Neal-Smith is Captain of Cricket. The School sings Mendelssohn's *Elisabeth* on Sunday, May 17, and Old Reunion Day is on Saturday, June 27. A lunch to thank donors to the Annual Foundation Appeal will be held at School on Thursday, July 2, the day on which the XI plays the Stock Exchange.

Repton School. Summer term at Repton School begins today. Commemoration and Speech Day will be on Saturday, May 23, at which the Bishop of Repton will re-dedicate the refurbished Chapel and the speaker will be Lord Alexander of Weedon.

St Mary's School, Weybridge. Term starts on Thursday, April 23, and will end on Friday, July 3, 1992, at 12.30pm. Half-term is from the end of afternoon school, on May 22, to Monday, June 1, 1992. The St Mary's Association Summer Event will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, June 20, starting at 2.00pm.

Wrekin College. Summer term starts today at Wrekin College. Confirmation will be conducted by the Bishop of Shrewsbury on May 3. Mr Dennis Silk will open the New Boy's boarding house on May 5 and the Summer Ball will be on May 22. On June 18 and 19 the seven houses will present a sequence of *The Mysteries*, as recently adapted for the National Theatre. Term ends with Speech Day on June 27.

Chess grandmasters offer prize challenge

AN OPEN chess tournament with prize money to spend in an auction of early books on the game will be held in London on May 6 (John Shaw writes).

Players are being invited to take part in a simultaneous display given by two grandmasters, Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times* and Murray Chandler, editor of *British Chess* magazine.

Prizes of £100 each in credit to the two best opponents in the judgment of the grandmasters. The money will go towards any purchases from the library of the late Dr Robert Blass, a Swiss lawyer, at the firm's South Kensington auction room on May 8.

The sale of more than 1,000 books is said to be the finest collection of its kind to appear on the market for decades. The library contains an early edition of a book of

game play written by the 16th-century Spaniard Ruy Lopez, a priest famed as a great player (estimate £1,500-£2,000).

The sale also contains lots originally belonging to Paul Morphy (1837-1884), an American, whose spectacular rise and sudden retirement was similar to that of Bobby Fischer a century later. The catalogue says: "Although grounded in entirely different personalities, their chess styles show a similar deceptive clarity, and their withdrawal into eccentricity has turned them both into legends."

It accompanies original score cards from Morphy's blindfold game with Louis Paulsen (1833-1891), who pioneered many opening variations still in the repertoire, notably in the Sicilian Defence (est £2,000-£3,000).

(Short levels, page 6)

Policeman pounds a beat to rival Pennine Way

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN who took time off from the beat to walk the hills has devised a new coast-to-coast route to rival the famous trans-Pennine crossing created by Alfred Wainwright.

The 154-mile path from Morecambe Bay in the west to Scarborough in the east has just been published in a guidebook for those who want to follow in the footsteps of Police Constable Bill Clapperton, a Cleveland community officer.

"I did it partly to attract people away from the Wainwright route because it is becoming so badly eroded and partly for my own interest in developing a new way across the north of England," PC Clapperton, 44, said. He took notes as he tested the route, listing not only the tracks to take, which are all existing



PC Bill Clapperton and the walking route he has devised across the North

public rights of way, but also interesting diversions and what can be seen along the way. "It worked it out so that it is all a gentle, even paced walk which most people could attempt. It is divided into sections that can be attempted on a daily basis for those wanting to take their time over it. The longest section



PC Bill Clapperton and the walking route he has devised across the North

without a break is only nine miles, so most people should be able to achieve that in a day."

Beginning at Silverdale on the shores of Morecambe Bay it runs past Burton in Lonsdale in north Lancashire to the North Yorkshire hills of Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent via Horton in

Ribblesdale. It then crosses the Dales national park to Masham before crossing the flatlands north of Thirsk and striking into the Hambleton Hills at Felkirk. Next it enters the North York Moors national park, skirting Helmsley to Kirkbymoorside. From there it drives through the North Riding Forest Park

into Forge Valley near Scarborough, arriving at the sea-side at the town's south bay.

His guidebook, published by Teesside Art College, will be sold to raise funds for the Teesside Hospice Care Foundation in Middlesbrough, which is in his community patch. He had hoped to call the route the Hospice Coast to Coast, but it has already become Clapperton's Way among the walking fraternity. Those who complete it within 12 months will be eligible for a badge and certificate from the hospice.

The Pennine Way generates about £2 million in spending and helps to create or support 156 jobs, according to a survey by the Countryside Commission of the use and economic impact of the forerunner of long distance paths (Ronald Faux writes).

Sir John Johnson, chairman of the commission and a

keen walker, says the report provides essential information to help manage the Pennine Way and other national trails in a way that gives walkers a real feeling for such fine tracts of countryside.

The survey shows that between April and October 1990, 10,000 long distance walkers and 153,000 day walkers went along the Pennine Way. With out-of-season walkers added, over the full year the 250-mile path was likely to be used by 12,000 long distance and 250,000 day walkers.

The report says that one in four long distance walkers could not find the type of accommodation wanted but nevertheless some returned to do the Pennine Way five times a year.

Pennine Way Survey 1990 (CCP 361, Countryside Commission Publications, £20)

Telephone 071 481 4000

BIRTHS

ALANBERSON. On April 17th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, Mrs. Alan Berenson, 39, gave birth to a son, Romy.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

SIR WILLIAM McEWAN YOUNGER

Sir William McEwan Younger, DSO, DL, brewer, died on April 15 aged 86. He was born on September 6, 1905.

WILLIAM McEwan Younger played a significant role in the commercial and political life of Scotland in the 1960s and 1970s. He was chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries from 1960 to 1969 and managing director for all but the last two of those years and was the dominant force in extending the brewery's interests nationally.

A man of strong and independent views, he had no brief for the received wisdom of the brewing industry of the day, which relied on expansion by acquisition of tied trade in tenanted houses through the issue of share capital. He was a convinced free trader in every sense of the term and a strong believer in competition. Acquisition was by organic growth and the use of cash, and market share was to be gained by the development of strong brands and the use of clever marketing. His prime strategy in building up the brewery was to seek outlets in free houses, rather than for it to build its own chain of public houses. He was a pioneer in the use of cans, and when he retired in 1969 Scottish and Newcastle had almost ten per cent of the beer trade in the UK while possessing only a few hundred tied or managed houses.

When an opportunity was offered to join with Tennents, and thus make a combine

College, Oxford, where he developed a life-long love of mountaineering. In later life he was elected an honorary fellow of Balliol. On leaving Oxford he succeeded his father in the family firm of William McEwan, the Edinburgh brewers which had been started by his great uncle.

During the second world war he commanded successively the 40th Light AA Battery and the 14th Light AA Regiment RA, taking part in all the North African campaigns, the landing at Salerno and the Italian campaign. He achieved great distinction during the first siege of Tobruk when the battery he commanded successfully beat off repeated Stuka attacks, claiming more than 50 enemy aircraft. For this he was awarded the DSO.

After the war he returned to Edinburgh and set about re-creating the brewing industry in Scotland. Under his leadership the integration of McEwan's and William Younger's was completed, followed by the absorptions of Bernard's, Morrison's and the Robert Younger's breweries and finally a merger with Newcastle Breweries in 1961 to form Scottish and Newcastle Breweries. By nature and upbringing a Conservative of the "one nation" variety, he stood unsuccessfully as a parliamentary candidate for West Lothian. He continued to take an active part in Conservative politics for many years. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Edward Heath's leadership and was chairman of the Conservative party in Scotland from 1971 to 1974, for which he was made a baronet.

Always a radical in political thought, he was a former member of, and major contributor to, the Institute of Economic Affairs. He was on the board of the British Linen Bank, the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, and Scottish Television and was a particularly successful chairman of the Second Scottish Investment Trust. He was actively involved in assisting his fellow Scots to take advantage of the industrial changes taking place internationally, helping to devise a scheme to enable industrialists, planners and trade unionists to meet their foreign counterparts. He was a founder and chairman of the Highland Tourist (Cairngorm Development) Ltd.

A notable contributor to charity he gave his house at Balerno to be a school for the Save the Children Fund.

He was married first to Nora Balfour from whom he was divorced in 1967, and by whom he had one daughter, Caroline, and then to June Peck, who nursed him with devoted attention through his last illness.



that could totally dominate the brewing industry in Scotland, he refused it, saying it would eliminate competition and thus be bad for both customer and producer.

Though diffident to the point of shyness in personal relationships, his extraordinary business self-confidence and original mind made him an inspiring boss to work for, and he backed his subordinates to the hilt if they used their own initiative.

Born at Melrose, William McEwan Younger was brought up on the banks of the Tweed. He was educated at Winchester and Balliol

VAKHTANG CHABUKIANI

Vakhtang Chabukiani, the greatest male dancer of his generation, died of a heart condition in Tbilisi, Georgia, on April 5 aged 82. He was born in Tbilisi on March 12, 1910.

WITHIN one month, three of the men who transformed Russian ballet from its imperial past to its revolutionary fervour have died: Asaf Messerer in Moscow, Konstantin Sergeyev in Leningrad and now Vakhtang Chabukiani in his native Georgia. All were well advanced in years and although they were still active as teachers or producers (the Maryinsky Ballet's brilliant young star Zeleny is a pupil of Chabukiani's) their great contribution lay in the past.

It has to be said, however, that they were giants who bestride the world of art. Men in ballet today, all over the world, dance differently (and better) for their influence, but only a handful of their successors can be ranked alongside them.

Vakhtang Chabukiani was, by genuine consensus, the finest of them, unmatched for his fiery personality, his virtuosity, his ideal physique and manly bearing, and his ability to combine dramatic and dancing skills over a wide range of roles. As a choreographer and director, too, he showed forceful talent.

He never danced in Britain, and only on two occasions in America: as a young dancer sent with a partner in 1934 for a concert tour marking a political agreement between the two countries, and 30 years later towards the end of his career when he was still able to enjoy success in the famous *pas de deux* from *The Corsair*. But films of his dancing and the evidence of the roles created for him (often his own choreography) confirm the awe and admiration of contemporary descriptions.

Three qualities in particular were repeatedly described. First, the sheer virtuosity of his dancing: the way he could soar around the stage in tempestuous leaps which were compared with an eagle's flight, or the fact that he turned so fast in pirouettes that the spectator's eye was dazzled. Second, the way he used his dance skills to theatrical effect, whether to play a war-like mountain chieftain in one of his own ballets, or to breathe new vigour into the traditional classical roles. And underlying all this, a very virile, dominating presence; nobody found it the least odd that, following Georgian custom, he insisted on keeping his moustache even when dancing the conventional old classics.

Chabukiani was born into a poor family and from the age of nine was put to making baskets and toys to ease out their income. Following some of these at Christmas to the only ballet school in Tbilisi, his appearance caught the eye of the teacher, Maria Perrini, who began giving him free lessons where his talent at once became obvious.

When he was 14, two visiting dancers from Leningrad persuaded him that he needed to study there, but it was another two years before he could make the journey. He was too old for acceptance in the famous school, his earlier studies being thought insufficient, but he began (like Sergeyev) in the evening course that had been set up for late starters. However, his zeal, flair, intelligence and hard work enabled him to complete the full course in three years, only the last of which was full-time.

Accepted in the State Academic (later Kirov) Theatre in 1929, he was given important roles at once, in Lopukhov's *Ice Maiden* and the *pas de deux* in *Swan Lake*; before the end of his first season he danced Siegfried in the latter work. This was the first of many big leading roles in quick succession, as Basilio in *Don Quixote*, in the grand *pas de Raymond*, Albrecht in *Giselle* and Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, all within three years.

Agrippina Vaganova, the great teacher in Leningrad at that time, encouraged Chabukiani to strive for increasingly difficult virtuoso effects, and when she revived Petipa's *Esmeralda* in 1935 the changes she introduced included a new showpiece duet, *Diana and Acteon*, for Ulanova and Chabukiani which has since entered the international repertoire. The version of the *Corsair pas de deux* widely known today was also made



Vakhtang Chabukiani in the role of Othello

with Chabukiani's exceptional gifts in mind and the choreography for the man's solo is by him. Although the Communist government had accepted that preserving the classical heritage for a new, wider audience was important, pride of place went to building a new repertoire, and Chabukiani had leading roles in many of the historic creations of the 1930s. They included the Sportsman in *The Golden Age*, Jerome in *The Flames of Paris* and Vaslav in *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai*, besides parts in *Lost Illusions*, *Tarus Bulba* and *Partisan Days*.

Not content with contributing as a performer to these epoch making works by Lopukhov, Vainonen, Zakharov and others, Chabukiani also became a choreographer (usually dancing the leading male role too). His first attempt was a bravura solo for himself, *The Fire Dance*, to music by Rubinstein.

With *The Heart of the Hills* in 1938 he turned to an episode from Georgian history, a revolt against high taxes in feudal times, for an ambitious full-evening work. It had music and design by two of Chabukiani's Georgian fellow countrymen, respectively Andrei Balanchivadze (George Balanchine's brother) and the gifted, later hugely influential Simon Virsaladze. The choreography drew upon traditional folk dance elements and the soft flowing movements transposed into balletic pointwork of the women.

The success of this was followed the next year by *Laurencia*, another big ambitious work based on Lope de Vega's tragedy *Fuente Ovejuna*, also about a peasant's revolt against a tyrant. Chabukiani danced the male leads in both these ballets. His aim was to tell the

stories entirely through expressive dance without needing any separate acting or mime.

At the height of his fame, Chabukiani returned during the war to Tbilisi and to become for the next 30 years director, choreographer and for a long time leading dancer at the Palashvili Opera House, devoting his great gifts and his patriotic fervour to building a national ballet for Georgia which achieved a standard that he could present with pride at international festivals in Vienna (1958) and Paris (1966).

The many ballets he created in Tbilisi including several on national themes, such as *Sinatis* and *Gorda*, also *The Demon*, based on Lermontov's poem, and a mastery treatment of Othello (1957) in which the power and intensity of his own performance in the title part were unmatched.

Chabukiani remained in demand for performances in Moscow and Leningrad, and in 1947 he was responsible for a revival of *La Bayadere* at the Kirov theatre which substantially reshaped the ballet into the form best known today and much increased the bravura demands on its leading man.

When Rudolf Nureyev first burst upon the ballet scene in Leningrad in 1958, it was Chabukiani's choreography that gave him his first successes, and memories of Chabukiani in his prime to whom informed spectators turned as a standard of judgement. By coincidence the two men had much in common in their backgrounds as well as in their dancing. Lamentably, Chabukiani's gifts were not so widely seen, but his patriotic pride put the city of Tbilisi firmly in the history of ballet. His achievements brought many honours, among them the rare title of People's Artist of the USSR.

HENRY KREMER

Henry Kremer, British industrialist and sponsor of man-powered flight, died at his home in Israel on April 8 aged 84. He was born in Dvinsk (now Daugavpils) Latvia on May 8, 1907.



design of more robust and practical aircraft.

A speed competition was devised which became an outstanding success, with the fifth and final winner completing the 1,500 metre course at a speed of 44kph. There are Kremer prizes still to be won of £50,000 and £10,000 respectively for the "Marathon" and "Seaplane" competitions.

Henry Kremer was brought to England from Latvia as a child and was educated in Britain and Switzerland, becoming a British citizen. Although his man-powered flight competition attracted widespread interest and publicity, Kremer was a self-effacing man who avoided the limelight.

For more than 50 years he was the head of a number of industrial companies which introduced numerous technical innovations. His personal achievements in the invention, design and application of new technologies were first recognised in 1941 when he developed a process for making a plywood substitute from sawdust, wood shavings and resin. Structural moulded boards replaced natural timber, which was then unobtainable, and were used in the war effort and later commercially. This was the first product of its type in Britain and it grew into the chipboard industry.

In 1953 he produced a process of making glass fibres which were chopped and assembled with adhesive and, when used with epoxy resin, formed strong structural material. This process, initially only for defence purposes, is now used commercially for most reinforced plastics work. Without the resin it is now well known as fibreglass insulation.

From 1954 to 1974 his developments included improved chaff dropped by aircraft to confuse airborne radar, advanced plastic packaging materials for weapons, electro viscous fluids and other defence products.

In 1974 he took over the

concept of the "wheelbarrow" to approach suspected terrorist bombs and, although production was assigned to another company, he made the first usable version. In 1979, in conjunction with the Fighting Vehicles Research Establishment, he developed the hydrogas suspension system produced for the Challenger tank and specified for the Chieftain.

Kremer made a lifetime pursuit of physical fitness and this helped lead him to the belief that with the right aircraft a trained athlete could achieve the ultimate - man-powered flight. He realised, too, that the best way he could contribute to the achievement of this goal would be by providing the financial incentives.

It is doubtful that human-powered flight would have been achieved and developed to the extent it has been without the encouragement and support of Henry Kremer. The Royal Aeronautical Society honoured him with Companionship in 1975, and in 1988 the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale presented him with its highest award, the Gold Air Medal, and later made him a Companion of Honour of the FAI.

He is survived by his wife Norah, two sons and two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Dr Peter Mitchell

PETER Mitchell (obituary, April 15) possessed a penetrating intellect and a dazzling intuition. For me, no scientist stands so firmly as a model for all scientists. I am not alone in this feeling, and I shall try to describe why this is so.

The 1978 Nobel prize for chemistry was awarded to Mitchell for formulating the theory that correctly describes biological energy transfer from food nutrients or light to adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the useful energy currency of the cell. When Mitchell first set forth this elegant hypothesis, in a paper published in *Nature* in 1961, it was entirely without experimental support. It was also a radical departure from prevailing dogma and was opposed by the world's leading biochemists. Only after nearly two decades of vigorous debate and intense experimentation was the hypothesis generally accepted and elevated to the status of theory.

The Nobel prizes are awarded for work that has had a major impact on research and understanding. They are normally awarded for an act of discovery or for the development of an important new technique. Mitchell was awarded the prize for a pure act of the imagination. Moreover, the work for which he was honoured followed in the most perfect sense the scientific method. The idea came first, and each element of his hypothesis was constructed in such a way as to be amenable to refutation by experiment.

As an undergraduate, I had been captivated by the power and simplicity of the scientific method and believed strongly that careful hypothesis-building was a prerequisite for experimental design. Nevertheless, it seemed to me that this great ideal of scientific practice was more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Mitchell put the horse squarely in front of the cart, and I read his paper in a state of stunned and grateful recognition. His achievement is a constant inspiration to scientists, not merely because his marvellous intuition eventually proved to be correct, but also because of the purity of this method.

Mitchell gave us an extraordinarily complete and accurate picture not only of how the mitochondria and chloroplasts transform energy from nutrients into ATP, but also how they survive within the cell under the stress of constant and rapid movements of ions and water across their membranes. At this physiological level, he succeeded magnificently in achieving his lifelong goal of unifying metabolism and membrane transport. He worked to the end of his life to perfect the deeper concept of vectorial metabolism upon which the chemiosmotic theory was based. Through these concepts, he continues



to energise biochemical research, and, given the mighty intellect of the man, this too may become a paradigm of biology.

Intellectual and personal attraction do not always converge, but my wife and I were immediately enchanted with Peter and Helen Mitchell when first we met. I think mostly of the four of us laughing together, of Peter's wonderful cleft chin. I remember the time we went on vacation with them, and Peter and I got into a scientific discussion so intense we scarcely left the house.

Pete was an extraordinarily attractive man, in the best sense. During his final week, my sense of impending loss was continually interrupted by joyful memories of his generous and youthful spirit. Pete was not afraid of death and was grateful for having lived such a full and happy life. He projected this positive energy with uncommon grace, and he enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Kelth Gardie

Norman Bruce

WHEN Colonel Norman Bruce (obituary, April 1) retired from the army and moved to Shropshire to take up a teaching post at Prestfield Preparatory School in Shrewsbury, he gave much pleasure to so many boys who did not excel in the classroom, by taking over the woodwork department and expanding it beyond all expectations into one of the most popular extracurricular activities that the school provided.

But it was on the rugby field that he really felt at home.

imparting all his knowledge and enthusiasm to eager young boys of 13 years old keen to learn and be inspired by such a famous and yet unassuming man.

He gave so much pleasure to so many aspiring rugby players, which is quite a feat at such a young age, when one is continually being flattered by boys twice your size and weight. Yet with Norman Bruce, you always wanted to jump back up onto your feet to avoid being reprimanded by that loud, barking Scottish voice.

David Walker
Prestfield School
(1978-84)

April 21 ON THIS DAY 1925



A plan to "penetrate the most secluded parts of Surrey and Sussex" with new roads appalled S.D. Adshead (1868-1946), architect and town planner. One wonders what he would have felt about such routes as the M3, M23 and M25.

MOTOR TRACKS TO SOUTH COAST.
To the Editor of The Times

Sir, it is something of an irony that, following the excellent letter by Professor Abercrombie bemoaning the encroachment of town on country, we should immediately get the "London and South Coast Motorways" promoting a Bill in Parliament to penetrate the most secluded parts of Surrey and Sussex. It seems unnecessary to call public attention to the very serious consequences that will result should such a scheme as that proposed for connecting London with Brighton, Portsmouth, and Southampton materialise.

A motor track, necessarily wide and direct, cannot be constructed through a country like Surrey without considerable cutting and filling. Moreover, it will be complicated with specially arranged and frequent crossings, and altogether will strike a harsher note on the rural character of the scenery than did the railways in 1830.

Again, it may be asked, are such roads necessary, and is it wise to encourage such a proposal having regard to the well considered system of national roads that is being rapidly developed? One advantage of the motorways by lifting from the rates some of the burden of maintaining the present roads, which are so seriously dam-

aged by heavy motor traffic. This statement, if not wholly incorrect, is at least misleading. It is well known that 75 per cent, and in some cases 90 per cent, of the cost of the improvement and maintenance of these arterial roads borne by the motorist, who, by direct taxation, provides the 15 millions which the Ministry of Transport is contributing annually towards roads throughout the country. On the whole, very excellent work is being done by local authorities financially assisted in this way. Rates are being relieved, the unemployed are given work, and a national system of roads is developing based on a wise use of roads that exist already.

But quite apart from the questions of economy and the general disfigurement of the scenery, the actual amount of depreciation to thousands of very beautiful estates will be beyond calculation. Surrey and Sussex are today the most important residential counties of the well-to-do. Driven from the suburbs, they have invested large sums of money to secure a rural retreat. But this is not all. As regards the interests of the private motorist and the user of the charabanc, whose run into the country is really an escape from town - to these the spoilation would be as depressing as it was unforeseen. Commercial vehicles will not use it, because the present roads conveniently tap established places of call en route. And what are the advantages? A few swift cars will be enabled to rush to Brighton perhaps half an hour quicker than they could by the public way; special lines of fast-running public vehicles, which will in the end be nothing more than slow railways, will assist in converting agricultural land into building land; and the spread of the urban population which follows the making of a railway will be emphasized, only in a much more destructive way.

Yours faithfully,
S.D. ADSHEAD.
University of London,
University College, Gower Street, W.C.1. April 20.

ALFREDA HODGSON

Alfreda Hodgson, British mezzo, died on April 17 aged 51. She was born at Morecambe on June 7, 1940.

ALFREDA Hodgson was one of the most sought after soloists in oratorio over the past 25 years. She was a distinguished singer in the Bach Passions and Handel's *Messiah*, a radiant Angel in Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, a fine Magdalene in the same composer's *The Apostles*, and one of the most authoritative interpreters of the mezzo parts in works by Mahler and Britten. There



were few who brought such understanding to Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*.

Her appearances in opera were few, but she made a notable debut with the English National Opera in 1974 as the soothsayer Ulrica in Verdi's *A Masked Ball*. Her Covent Garden debut came even later - in a double bill by Ravel - in 1983. She also took the role of Sosistris in the Thames Television production of Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage*. She studied at the Royal

Northern College of Music, first the cello, then voice, and appeared in student productions. She made her London debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1963, including Britten's cycle *A Charm of Lullabies*. In the same hall the following year she was awarded the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship. Her first engagements with orchestras were with the Halle in Manchester. In London she first appeared with orchestra under the baton of Klemperer in Mahler's Second Symphony. Thereafter she never lacked for engagements at home or abroad.

A particular pleasure was given by her duo programmes with the soprano Sheila Armstrong. In these she exhibited her natural gift for humour. Her final appearances took place in January when she was already ill with the cancer that killed her. She bore her illness with courage and good cheer, qualities that always marked her singing.

Her voice, although capable of a ranging high, was dark-hued in timbre. She used it at all times with consummate artistry. Although it was not large, it carried well in big halls because her tone was so well focused. She was left as a memorial of her art recordings of *The Dream of Gerontius* under Sir Alexander Gibson, *The Apostles* under Richard Hickox, *Das Lied von der Erde*, also with Gibson, and a lovely recital record, made in 1980, on which she sings, among other works, Britten's *Charm of Lullabies* and Brahms's *Two Songs with Viola*. She is survived by her husband, the music teacher Paul Bissett, and their two daughters.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

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TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

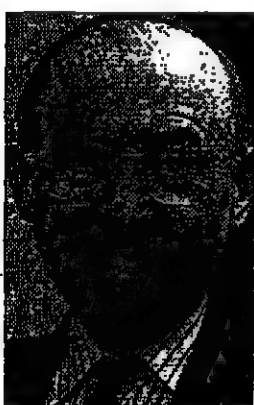
MAN OF THE WEEK

James checks in for long haul

Ding dong. Dan Air would like to inform shareholders of a delay to the departure of David James, its scheduled service to a profitable future.

Dan-Air, delays, and an overcrowded Gatwick airport — it is hard to imagine a package holiday without them. Even the groans greeting the delays have an air of inevitability. But the announcement that David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's parent, has delayed his departure is more likely to be met with cheers, especially from D&N's long-suffering shareholders. For Dan-Air is changing and the man doing the changing is Mr James.

According to the peripatetic, love-em and leave-em lifestyle of the



James: delay cheered

company doctor, tomorrow's results should have seen him long gone. D&N's financial future was secured six months ago when he bought £40 million of new equity to repair the ravages of recession and war and coolly came up with £54 million. The perfect moment to fly off into the corporate sunset leaving shareholders bathed in admiration.

Mr James, however, appears to have caught the flying bug and will tomorrow confirm that he is there for the long haul, not just as chairman of D&N but also of the airline. The day to day piloting he will pass on to John Olsen, the former Cathay Pacific manager who began work as Dan-Air's chief executive last week. But Mr James plans to keep in close radio contact.

Just how long a haul it might be should also become apparent with losses of £35 million forecast and possibly more given the harsh climate that has coincided with the airline's shift from charters to scheduled services.

The more permanent relationship will cost Mr James dear. His £1,000 a day consultancy fee will fall to £90,000 a year, although Mr Olsen's arrival should leave him with time to tackle Lep Group, his next and doubtless lucrative reconstruction. But in the mean time all he wants to hear is "Dan-Air, you are cleared for financial take-off." But it wouldn't be the same with a little delay.

MATTHEW BOND

Indiana firm will take month to decide

US visit fuels jobs hope at Ravenscraig

BY MARTIN WALLER AND KERRY GILL

AN AMERICAN company is today visiting the Ravenscraig steel plant, near Glasgow, which is due to close in September. It might consider making an offer for parts of the site that could save some hundreds of the plant's 1,200 jobs.

The visit by Nucor, an Indiana steel company, has been organised by Scottish Enterprise, formerly the Scottish Development Agency. Scottish Enterprise was entrusted with marketing the site when British Steel decided in January to close the plant.

It is clear, however, that there can never be a return to the days when Ravenscraig employed thousands of people and was one of Scotland's centres of industrial production. Nucor has only limited plans for the site.

America's seventh-largest steel producer, Nucor is known to want a foothold in Europe and was approached by Scottish Enterprise some months ago. A team of seven arrived today to look into the viability of steelmaking using

new technology at Ravenscraig. It will also visit the linked Hunterston one terminal, on the Ayrshire coast, during a six-day tour.

Details of the trip have been kept secret and British Steel made Nucor sign a confidentiality document. British Steel is playing down the chances of a last-ditch rescue, describing Nucor's visit as "a pre-feasibility study".

Keith Busse, Nucor's vice-president and general manager, said: "We are going to look at the viability and financial production of liquid steel. We will be at Ravenscraig for two full days and will also visit Hunterston before departing on Sunday."

He said findings would be evaluated at the company's headquarters and it would be a month before a firm decision could be reached to establish a liquid steel production works on the site.

Nucor's interest will be centred on a chance to provide a modest number of jobs. If nothing comes of it, only the plate rolling mill at Hunterston, producing iron and steel, which is rolled into strips. Capacity is three million tonnes of steel a year.

British Steel accepts that if Nucor is interested in taking over the site, or buying facilities there, the Americans must be given a hearing. If no offer comes, British Steel insists that Ravenscraig must close in September. British Steel has already, with Scottish Enterprise, looked at the site being used by other industries. It has commissioned an environmental audit of what needs to be done to convert it to other uses.

Mr James, MP for Motherwell South, first approached Nucor some months ago. He flew to Indiana in February to look at Nucor's thin-slab casting mini-mill at Crawfordsville, the only one of its kind in the world. In a report to the SDA in 1991, Arthur D Little, the consultant, said such a mill was one option for Ravenscraig, but added the proviso that the technology involved was not fully proven.

"We have no set timescale on making a decision," said Mr Iverson, "we will just move as rapidly as possible." But even if Nucor decides to go ahead, some hundreds of jobs will be lost.

Mr Iverson says the process is considering needs less than half the jobs of traditional steel rolling. Any attempt by Nucor to revitalise Ravenscraig would be its first venture outside America.

company establishes a works in Scotland, it could not compensate for the jobs that will go when British Steel shuts Ravenscraig. Up to 15,500 jobs could be lost in local support industries.

Scottish Enterprise and Lanarkshire development agency are working on regeneration schemes for the area. In the mid-1970s, Ravenscraig employed 13,000 people. The announcement by British Steel that the steel complex would be closed was followed by a pledge from John Major that the government would do all it could to cushion central Scotland's economy.

Nucor operates several so-called mini-mills, taking on scrap steel and melting it down into slabs that are sent to rolling mills. Such plants, producing about a million tonnes a year, employ at best a few hundred people.

Ravenscraig, by contrast, has a much longer production line, taking in iron ore and coking coal at Hunterston, producing iron and steel, which is rolled into strips. Capacity is three million tonnes of steel a year.

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The troubled mill

Early days yet for studying incentives

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE management at Nucor Corporation, America's seventh-largest steelmaker, yesterday told *The Times* that the company had not yet discussed any incentives that might be available to save jobs at Ravenscraig.

Kenneth Iverson, Nucor chairman and chief executive, confirmed from his headquarters in Indiana that the move was in its early stages. "We have a team there studying the detail and looking at the feasibility of building a thin slab casting mill at Ravenscraig."

Mr Iverson declined to comment on whether the company would be offered incentives to set up at Ravenscraig. "We haven't even started talking about that yet," he said, adding that the company had responded to approaches from Scotland. "We did not seek it. The Scottish Development Agency came to

us," he said. Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South, first approached Nucor some months ago. He flew to Indiana in February to look at Nucor's thin-slab casting mini-mill at Crawfordsville, the only one of its kind in the world. In a report to the SDA in 1991, Arthur D Little, the consultant, said such a mill was one option for Ravenscraig, but added the proviso that the technology involved was not fully proven.

"We have no set timescale on making a decision," said Mr Iverson, "we will just move as rapidly as possible." But even if Nucor decides to go ahead, some hundreds of jobs will be lost.

Mr Iverson says the process is considering needs less than half the jobs of traditional steel rolling. Any attempt by Nucor to revitalise Ravenscraig would be its first venture outside America.

Cost of bomb 'less than £1bn'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Association of British Insurers said that the IRA bomb explosion in the City of London this month will cost the insurance industry "hundreds of millions" but no more than £1 billion.

It is still too early to give accurate forecasts for the size of the loss while repair work continues at the 45 companies affected by the bomb. However, if the association's forecast is accurate, the cost of blast would exceed the £600 million cost of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

The insurance of the build-

ings most affected by the blast are thought to be well spread around the London and international markets. The insurance of the Commercial Union building was led by the Commercial Union. It is not known how much of the risk the company has retained.

Business interruption claims, which make up the bulk of the losses when explosions hit oil refineries or chemical plants, are thought likely to be limited because of the relative ease with which office-based companies can transfer premises. Tony Bak-

er, the insurance association's head of public affairs, said yesterday that "the signs are" that insurance premiums would not be affected by the cost of the blast.

"Premiums have already gone up over the past couple of years and it should not be necessary to put them up again," Mr Baker said.

He described as "wildly inaccurate and unsubstantiated guesswork" earlier reports that the cost would be £1.8 billion, and that the affected insurers would be unable to pay.



In the cockpit: James Giles runs International Aerospace, which won an award for test pilots' courses

Another cash call likely for tunnel

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHAREHOLDERS in Eurotunnel are braced for another rights issue of perhaps £500 million on Friday when the Channel tunnel operator reports results for 1991. Eurotunnel has so far secured a total of £8.9 billion in funds.

In the last trading statement in October, the company said it foresaw a peak funding of £8.05 billion in 1996. Since then it has said it would be unable to meet its target opening date of June 15 1993.

This month, Eurotunnel was told by an independent arbitration panel to pay TML, the contractors' consortium, £50 million extra a month on top of £25 million in scheduled payments. Eurotunnel has said it will appeal the order.

The company's consortium of 223 lending banks had assumed a November 1993 opening date. Some observers believe the delay cuts revenue projections by £200 million. "They are running very tight," said Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew.

He does not exclude refinancing as an option and expects Eurotunnel to ask shareholders for an additional £500 million and banks for another £1 billion to £1.5 billion in loans.

Japanese banks, which provided some 30 per cent of Eurotunnel's loans, will be reluctant to commit fresh funds at a time when they are being squeezed at home, the City believes.

Tarmac, one of the main contractors, announced last week that it had sold some share options in Eurotunnel for a profit of £6 million, fearing a further cash-raising exercise.

Another analyst, Mark McVicar at County NatWest, said it was too early to assess how much more would be needed to complete the project. "Until we know the outcome of any settlement with TML, it is extremely difficult to say whether and how much Eurotunnel would have to borrow," he said.

"The best thing for all parties... is to get the thing finished and get cash flowing in. At the moment it's just a hole in the ground."

Wall Street hurt as Nikkei tumbles

FROM JOANNA FITMAN IN TOKYO

DESPITE a flurry of official statements at the weekend designed to improve sentiment in the Tokyo stock market, the Nikkei 225 average dropped sharply yesterday, reinforcing fears that the Japanese market will remain volatile for some weeks.

The Nikkei average fell 509.33 points to close at 17,071.36, belying officially voiced optimism from senior government quarters.

The further gloom from Tokyo combined with profit-taking to knock Wall Street from record levels. After three consecutive records, powered by sharp increases in first-quarter profits, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 33.88 points by lunchtime, to 3,331.62. Some analysts have raised the possibility of a sustained Wall Street drop.

The most significant official statement concerning the Tokyo stock market came from Kichii Miyazawa, the prime minister, who said there may be an acceleration of plans to increase the weight of equities in the portfolio of the Pension Welfare Corporation, a public institution that manages pension funds for small enterprises.

The market was depressed artificially by active index-linked arbitrage trading in very low volume trading. Yoshihisa Kitai, an economist at Long Term Credit Bank, said: "Volatility will remain high as long as the economy looks depressed, but the 17,000 or 18,000 level is the bottom end of the market's realistic range."

Mr Kitai believes that signs of economic recovery are already showing. He says the pessimism over the outlook for the economy, triggered by the weakening of the banking sector, is misplaced. "The banks are not the engine of the Japanese economy. The manufacturing and service companies are," he said. Japan's still formidably wealthy institutional investors have already stepped in, according to Mr Kitai, and are beginning to compensate for the drying up of loans from banks, stricken with the prospect of looming capital adequacy ratio requirements for the Bank for International Settlements.

Wall Street, page 16

Export awards at a record

BY DEREK HARRIS

A RECORD total of 127 Queen's Awards for export achievement have been given this year. There are also 38 winners of awards for technological achievement.

ICI won three awards, two of them for technological achievement. GEC-Marconi won a technology award for applying defence electronics expertise to satellite television receivers.

International Aerospace, of Cranfield, Bedfordshire, won an export award. The company, headed by James Giles, provides specialist training for test pilots.

Export awards also went to Nissan's United Kingdom car factory, Peugeot Talbot at Coventry and the Cosworth high-performance engines division of Vickers.

Businesses with fewer than 200 employees accounted for 65 per cent of awards. Invisible earners in the service industries accounted for 18 per cent of export winners.

Next year, there will be an award for products or processes benefiting the environment.

Special report, pages 19-24

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THE POUND

US dollar
1.7470 (-0.0148)†
German mark
2.9131 (-0.0053)†
Exchange index
91.6 (-0.3)†

Bank of England official
close (Thursday 4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2059.2 (+6.2)†
FT-SE 100
2638.6 (-1.6)†
New York Dow Jones
3347.27 (-19.23)†
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17071.36 (-509.33)
† Thursday's close
‡ midday price.

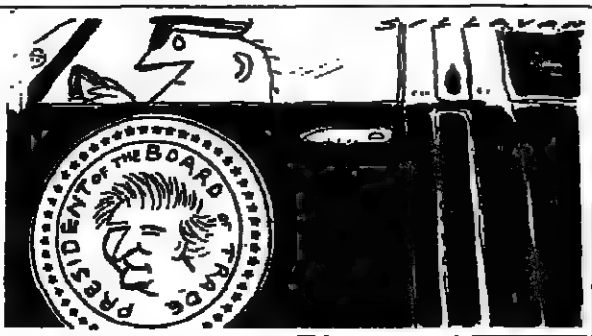
Export drive for the president

BY ROSS TIESMAN

THE trade and industry department's revolving door has spun so fast recently that ministers have frequently had their reputations caught in it. Michael Heseltine, who has been through it all before, is apparently seeking to escape the trap by calling himself president of the Board of Trade.

The restoration of this forgotten role gives the appearance of elevating Mr Heseltine beyond fellow secretaries of state, though his salary, £63,047, is no different.

The former minister for Liverpool's regeneration is now a roving ambassador charged with restoring Britain's might as a trading nation. If Mr Heseltine makes



the post more than a sincere, British industry will be delighted. For more than a decade, exporters have complained about governments whose free market icons ignored the brutal realities of overseas competition. For many, privatisation of the parts of the Exports Credits

Guarantee Department (ECGD) was the final straw. British export credit premium rates, calculated as a percentage of the contract price, are the highest among the main trading nations.

A British firm seeking state protection of overseas contracts pays an 8.7 per

cent premium. A German rival pays the next-highest, 6.1 per cent, and in Italy, France, Canada and America they pay scarcely half as much.

A strong performance in export markets in recent years has restored Britain's share of world trade to 9 per cent. But critics say the effect of the credit guarantees policy is seen in the UK's much more modest share of work in the project business, estimated at just 5 per cent.

It is in these infrastructure, industrial plant and transport businesses that companies appear most disadvantaged by the credits regime. So Mr Heseltine's decision to take personal responsibility for what remains of the ECGD provides a signal on how he sees his role.

Euphoria not yet exhausted

Investors and fund managers return from the Easter break this morning wondering whether John Major's surprise election victory has kicked-started a new spring and summer for shares or whether the stock market has simply staged an instant adjustment, leaving those who missed the boat to grin and bear it.

Since election day dawned, share prices have risen an average 10 per cent. Much of that bounce was emotional, a mixture of greater confidence in economic recovery, the removal of uncertainty that led buyers to hold back their cash — and no tax increase for affluent savers. There have been other one-off factors, such as the unwinding of precautionary sales of share futures and assumed relief to sensitive sectors such as water, where some prices jumped 30 per cent.

More pointedly, the fear of a temporary rise in short-term interest rates, should the Conservatives have lost power, was replaced by hopes of a small cut as the pound gained an average 1.7 per cent on the foreign exchanges. Wall Street, where prices rose 6 per cent to all-time records before some profit-taking, also influenced London, but the impact should not be exaggerated.

Profit-taking can be expected in some of the politically sensitive index stocks but the short-term recovery in London has surely not yet fully spent its course. In particular, it will widen into smaller company shares. Even before Easter, there were isolated signs that economic confidence could quickly help spending. For example, HPI, the vehicle information group, detected a small but instant rise in interest in second-hand cars. On momentum alone, there is therefore every reason for the FT-SE index to retrace fairly soon the 2,680 peak of last September, before disappointment at the non-appearance of recovery set off the slide, later compounded by electoral fears.

One important negative factor has intruded since then. The length and depth of the recession has pushed the government's borrowing requirement to an expected £28 billion in 1992-3 and more in 1993-4, some £8 billion a year more than expected a few months ago.

In 1991, according to figures released on Thursday, institutional investors drew in £42 billion, spent £22 billion on UK company securities, overwhelmingly shares, but only £2.5 billion on gilt-edged. At the same time, they ran net liquidity down by £5 billion, virtually to rock bottom, before rebuilding it temporarily before the election. If they spent anything like as much on shares this year as last, while being called on for perhaps £15 billion-£20 billion to fund the government, there would need to be a spectacular retreat from overseas investment or an unlikely bank-financed takeover boom.

Shortage of institutional funds need not curb share price rises. There is, however, little else to chase them far. The economic upturn is still likely to be leisurely, leaving profits recovering modestly, except in the hard-hit financial sector, with no boost from inflation or a sliding pound. Shares will probably sell at an average 14.2 times earnings to be announced next spring, with no dramatic eighties-style surge to come.

Dividends are thinly covered and should lag behind profits in the recovery. Yet the average dividend yield of 4.75 per cent offers little premium over index-linked gilt-edged and any benefit from lower short-term interest rates will be small. Private investors should not be put off buying long-term at current prices. Confidence, though vulnerable to shocks, could propel the FT-SE index through 2,700. At the 3,000 forecast by some brokers for later this year, it would definitely be a sell.

Colin Narbrough
suggests the former
Soviet republics should
remember an earlier
Keynesian attempt to
stabilise the rouble

In Moscow, the Congress of People's Deputies has devoted an inordinate amount of time to discussing whether the Russian Federation should restore the country's historic, pre-Bolshevik name — Russia. Given the gargantuan task the former Soviet Union faces on the political and economic fronts, dwelling so long on a name seems a terrible waste of time.

Yet to focus on Russia's past can be a fruitful exercise, a glance backwards that provides valuable pointers to the future.

As Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, goes his reluctant compatriots towards the free market, it becomes ever more obvious that the rouble, still the official currency of all former Soviet republics, is failing to provide the reliable store of value and convertibility a market economy requires. Without faith in the rouble, other currencies will gain firmer hold. Citizens of the former Soviet Union are already believed to hold \$10 billion in foreign currency. The Group of Seven agreed this month to give Russia \$6 billion for a rouble stabilisation fund. The black holes in the rouble zone economies suggest, however, that setting a target level for the currency will be a leap in the dark.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, last week drew attention to the substantial additional needs of the other republics, whose quest for sound money will, in some cases, take them out of the rouble fold, causing a whole range of separate difficulties. Given their close and ill-balanced economic ties with Russia, and their lack of international competitiveness, the purely economic case for separate currencies is not strong. Ukraine and the three Baltic states nevertheless intend to issue their own currencies this year.

Russia's fast-track economic reformers ignore the fact that our own transition has been a long march rather than a quick dash. Britain took 35 years after the second world war to achieve full currency convertibility for current account and capital transactions. Ironically, some prominent western thinkers have tried to redirect attention to ideas that have been tried and tested in Russia. Among those delving into the past are Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Sir Alan Walters, Margaret Thatcher's former economics guru, and Michael Foot, head of the Bank of England's European Division.

M. Attali's reading is that gold,



Father of the 'British rouble': Lord Keynes's theories support the argument for currency boards

alongside oil and gas, is one of the real currencies left in a Russia faced with spiralling inflation and the threat of systemic collapse. Official Russian reserves may be down to 240 tonnes, but there is production potential. M. Attali sees scope to use gold and hydrocarbons as a standard of value, in addition to their direct role in economic development. The creation of a "gold board", issuing currency backed by the noble metal, is one idea he has floated. He recalls that Lenin's "new economic policy" in the early twenties was accompanied by the issue of a parallel currency, the *chervonets*, equal to 7.74 grammes of gold. Though not redeemable at a fixed rate for gold, the currency was nominally backed by the government's gold reserves. Monetary reform, and encouragement of free market activity, gave the Soviet Union its fastest period of growth. Since the *chervonets* was abandoned for foreign transactions in 1928, the Soviet currency has been inconvertible at home and abroad.

Mr Volcker, one of the few central bankers who has been in charge of the monetary policy of a country anywhere near the size of the former Soviet Union, is firmly opposed to the central bank being used as a

means of achieving convertibility. Markets, he points out, developed well before central banks. If the crumbling Soviet empire were to rely on central banks, they might prove a barrier to change. Mr Volcker fears.

Ever ready to challenge orthodoxy, Sir Alan Walters has championed the idea that former Soviet republics should end their fixation with national central banks. Although fundamentally opposed to Britain relinquishing monetary sovereignty, he believes that currency boards, which are simply bodies issuing a currency backed against another hard currency, would serve the troubled republics better than central banks. In support of his case, Sir Alan, a monetarist, has reached back to 1918 and to Lord Keynes, father of the "British rouble".

This convertible currency was introduced by the British forces occupying northern Russia only 11 weeks after the concept was born at the Treasury in London. Civil war and a worthless local currency prompted the British to introduce a currency board, which issued surcharged rouble notes 75 per cent backed by sterling. Hailed as an

immediate success by the military authorities, it rekindled commercial activity and enabled the army to buy and sell normally. Good money soon drove out the bad. However, the experiment was to be short-lived. The system was abandoned when the British withdrew in 1919.

The currency board was far from abandoned. Indeed, it continued to thrive across the British empire. While many former colonies insisted on establishing their own central banks upon independence, Hong Kong, one of the world's most vibrant economies, still employs the board system, operated there by private banks. Under such systems, there is no need for a central bank. The "board" simply issues notes and coins convertible into a foreign reserve currency at a fixed rate. The board's reserves are high-quality external assets, typically interest-bearing securities denominated in a reserve currency. The British rouble scheme used Russian timber, resources for part of its backing, the British army being on the spot to secure the timber.

Key to the board system is that it issues domestic currency only to the extent that it is covered by reserves. Most important for countries dogged by economic uncertainty, the

board has no discretion over monetary policy. It cannot devalue or revalue the currency. Market forces determine the money supply. The board system generates income from its interest-bearing reserves. Its only outgoing is maintaining the circulation of banknotes and coins. As the British found in northern Russia, instant convertible currency can cause social tension because people will pursue the good currency in preference to the old money.

Doubts remain about how appropriate a currency board system would be to the needs and aspirations of the former Soviet Union. In a paper for the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Mr Foot identifies two difficulties in the board approach. The first is where the reserve assets will be found. Russia is resource-rich, but the other republics are unlikely to have access to sufficient reserves without extensive foreign help.

The second is that the domestic money supply may need to grow quickly in the early phases of reform, especially when prices are liberalised. A currency board, Mr Foot argues, is designed to prevent such rapid growth. Only by trying to establish from the outset the path of money supply for several years ahead would a board be able to overcome this problem, he believes. That would be difficult, and it would highlight the true scale of the funds needed to back a board system. Other critics of the concept fear it could not work as long as the supply of the old national currency exceeded the growth of potential output.

The phenomenal economic growth of Hong Kong seems to counter the argument that currency board systems prevent an economy expanding. The 60 countries that have operated currency boards were rewarded with success. Capital and current account transactions presented few problems, inflation was kept as low as in the leading economies with which their currencies were linked, and foreign institutions readily established themselves in the environment of monetary safety that was created. The availability of reserve assets should not prove an insurmountable obstacle, either. Gold-swaps, where currency is advanced against gold reserves, and loans tied to known gold resources, should help solve Russia's problem. The Baltic states have had most of their prewar gold reserves returned from the West. Loans linked to other commodities, plus western aid, could fill the gaps in reserve assets.

To foster credibility of the currency boards in the initial phase, it would be sensible to base them outside the former Soviet Union, beyond the reach of interfering politicians. Basle, Swiss home of the Bank for International Settlements, would be a good location. Even more persuasive would be London, because our imperial past has made the Bank of England the international repository of expertise on currency boards.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

KB enclave on the Thames

SOMETHING of a Kleinwort Benson enclave is being established in the Thames-side offices of Swiss Bank Corporation. Last week, KB's second most senior (and profitable) market-maker, Chris Salter, resigned to join the Swiss group, where he will find himself working alongside Iain Rugeheimer, Rugeheimer, previously a general salesman and, at times, a specialist in the healthcare sector with KB, started work at SBC six weeks ago. At SBC he has moved on to the primary and syndicated loans desk. Their number will be boosted by the arrival of market-makers Tim Medland and Keith Humphries, from Goldman Sachs. They too once worked for KB. Meanwhile SBC, which is known to be keen to expand its activity in the options market, since it is in the process of buying and integrating O'Connor, the leading American options house, is also to expand its market making capacity in FT-SE100 stocks, so that prices in all 100 stocks are on offer.

Chemin de feuilles

BRITISH Rail's determination to beat off the threat of airline competition on its new Channel tunnel express has been raising eyebrows within the British Airline Pilots Association. BR is offering its drivers salaries of £24,000, the sort of sum many pilots get only after 11 years' service. BR explains that it is prepared to invest in the best-quality drivers. Peter Whittaker, personnel director, adds that the remuneration pack-



ages being offered by European Passenger Services, the BR offshoot running the Trans-Manche shuttle, set a precedent. In the past, drivers have received overtime for extra hours and miles, a practice criticised on safety grounds. Trans-Manche drivers will get an all-in-one package. "There is no overtime and no premium for weekends or extra mileage," Whittaker says. In addition, drivers will be expected to speak French and understand foreign rail systems, a policy that holds out the tantalising prospect of fellow Europeans being equally bemused by BR drivers' notorious *bon mots* to passengers. "Their French needn't be GCSE level," Whittaker admits, "but they will be expected to welcome passengers aboard and wish them a smooth journey." He makes no reference to the need for a French translation of that other oft-used BR phrase — "leaves on the line".

Water woes

WHILE BSN, the leading French food manufacturer, said that its Evian source will be operating at maximum capacity by the year 2000, its

rival Perrier, which Nestlé has just fought tooth-and-nail to acquire, has never admitted that it faces similar problems. The day when the Perrier source can yield no more may, however, be closer than so far believed, according to Sylvain Massot, drinks industry analyst at Morgan Stanley. The benzene scare relieved pressure on source Perrier, Massot says, but if the market grows at its expected 5 per cent over the next ten years, Perrier could be up to capacity, which he estimates at about 1.5 billion litres a year, at about the same time as Evian's output flattens out. Perrier's rivals will then have a field day filling the market gap.

Fast-lit Wylie

ANDREW Fleming-Williams, chief of Winterthur Insurance (UK), whom last week we reported searching for new premises, has not only now found new offices but has already moved in. His company was rendered homeless by the bomb which devastated the Commercial Union Insurance tower in which it was located. Fleming-Williams had to cut short a family skiing holiday in Switzerland to sort out the problem. Now, with the help of Hexell Wylie, the City estate agent that specialises in the insurance sector, (and which is enjoying a boom in business, courtesy of the IRA), he is happily installed in the Sun Alliance building in Fenchurch Street. He saw the premises on Tuesday, made an offer on Wednesday, it was accepted on Thursday and he moved in on Saturday.

CAROL LEONARD

Decisive action needed or Lloyd's will find its problems insoluble

From R. C. Dutton-Forsshaw
Sir, It is ironic that on Good Friday, of all days, the shattering news should be announced that many thousands of Lloyd's names will be facing personal ruin.

They must feel doubly betrayed. Betrayed by Lloyd's, in which they put their trust, and a duty of care which sadly appears to be completely lacking. Betrayed by their members' agents, who also must carry a responsibility for placing them on syndicates which were manifestly unsound.

Lloyd's may have felt relieved at the news that it is now able to draw down its unfortunate names' cash in order to meet totally unprecedented calls. By so doing, not only will it have destroyed many of its names, but at the

same time sown the seeds of Lloyd's own destruction.

Time is running out, and unless Lloyd's is prepared to attempt an alternative solution to this dreadful loss situation, that it must realise could only mostly be due to incompetence, or even much worse, there will be no future.

Names, who to date have escaped comparatively unscathed, will leave in droves, and certainly no one in their senses would wish to join now.

Decisive action is urgently required, or Lloyd's will shortly find its problems insoluble. Yours faithfully,
R. C. DUTTON-FORSHAW,
Palladium Lock Farm,
Pulborough,
Sussex.

Time to settle commercial debts

From Mr Stephen Schick
Sir, As an external member of Lloyd's, I hope that after the recent judgment in the High Court (Names fail to stop assets seizure, April 17) my fellow names will now accept the reality that they are legally obliged to settle their commercial debts.

Too many names are being

misled into thinking these can be avoided and are merely spending more of their limited resources on membership fees of "action groups", solicitors' fees and legal expenses.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SCHICK,
Garden Flat,
34 Tite Street, SW3.

Stamp duty charged on notional VAT

From Mr Maurice Nadeem
Sir, There is an even better example than that quoted by Mr Good (Business Letters, April 15) of tax on a tax. Now that VAT can be charged on commercial rents, the Revenue demand stamp duty calculated not on the rent, but on the total of the rent and the

VAT. Even if the landlord has not elected to charge VAT, stamp duty has to be paid on the notional VAT that he could have charged! They say that this is justified by a decision of the European Court!

Yours faithfully,
M. NADEEM,
33 New Cavendish Street, W1.

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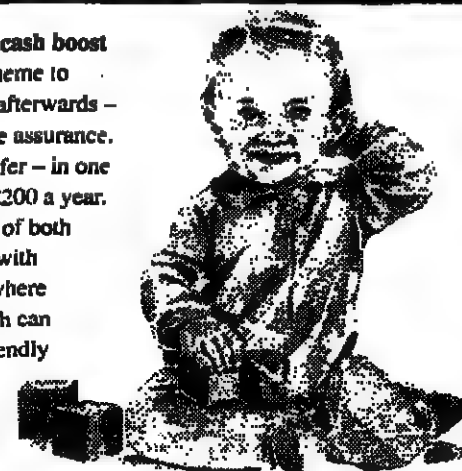
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Please take into account any interest gains

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £4,000 is Mr Raymond Newman, of Haydock, near St Helens, Merseyside.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £4,000 is Mr Raymond Newman, of Haydock, near St Helens, Merseyside.

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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin April 6. Dealings end April 24. Settlement day April 27. Settlement day May 5. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. But adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on previous prices.

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QUEEN'S AWARDS

Broadening the excellence field

A new environment award will join the Queen's Awards for industrial achievement in technology and export, Derek Harris reports

The 26-year-old Queen's Awards for export and technological achievement are about to go through their biggest change since 1976, the year the awards were split in two.

The total number of Queen's Awards given for 1992 was 165, above the general level of the last decade and ahead of last year's 158. Applications for the 1992 awards were the highest for 13 years. There was a record number of 127 awards for export achievement as British business, from manufacturers big and small to universities and other services, strove to beat the recession by maximising sales abroad. Thirty-eight companies secured an award for technological achievement. There were 1,565 applicants for this year's awards, a 37 per cent increase on 1991.

A further award is now to be introduced: the Queen's Award for environmental achievement. A clutch of companies favoured this year by the Queen's Awards office have environmental aspects to their work and at least four would have received such an award, had one been on offer. This has encouraged the office to believe that the new environmental award should readily attract attention.

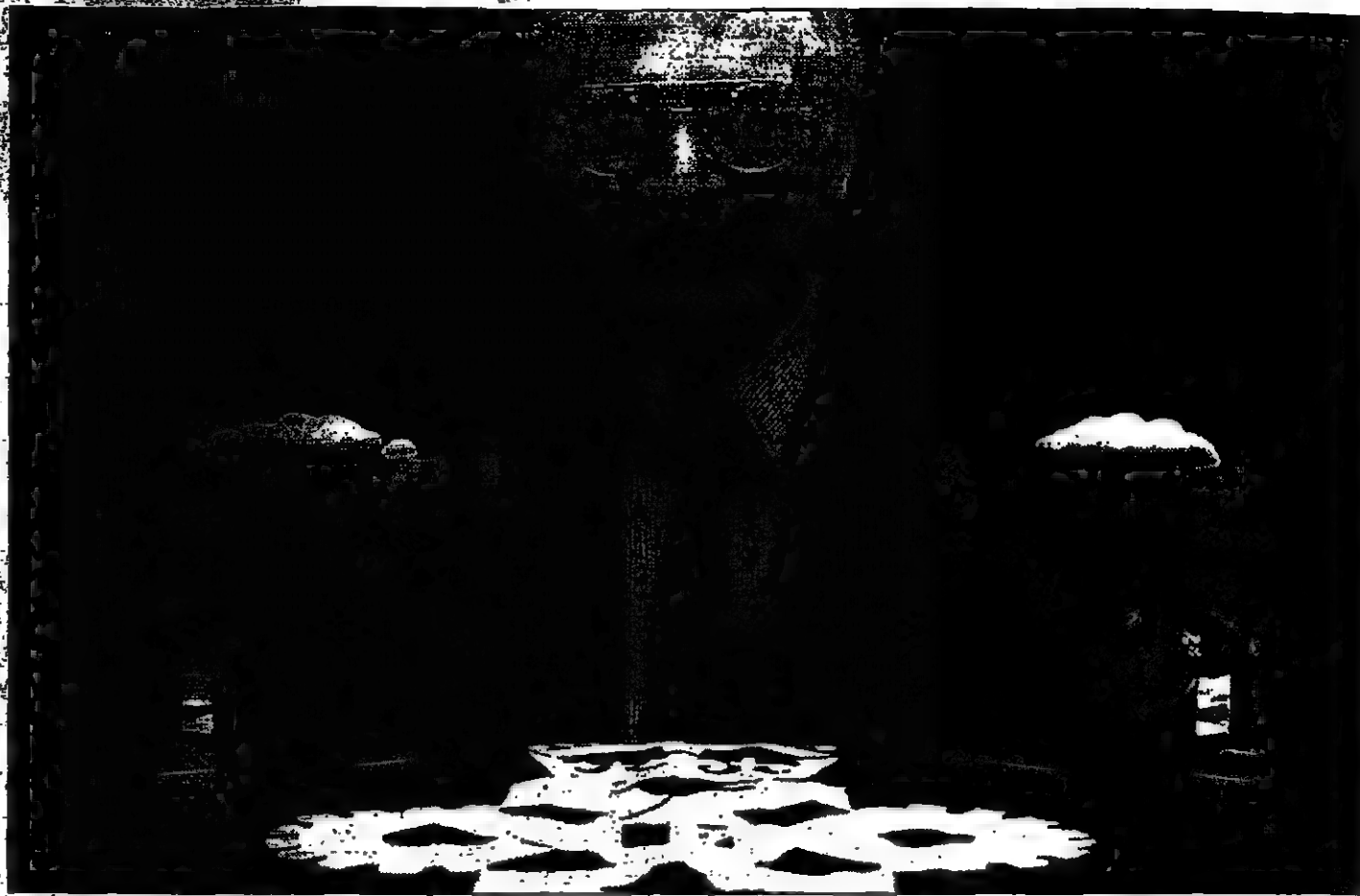
The new environmental trophy was first signalled in January by the prime minister. It builds on the pioneering work of the Royal Society of Arts with its Better Environment awards for industry.

The aim of the new Queen's Award is to recognise and encourage product and process development which will bring important environmental benefits. Companies will have to show that the initiatives are commercially successful. The first winners will be announced in April next year, along with those securing export and technology awards.

It is not uncommon for a few companies to secure both an export and technology award in the same year. Last year, three companies scored a double, but in the 1992 awards nobody managed this. The prospect of a company landing a treble is remote, although it is theoretically possible. However, a successful product or process with environmental impact could quite likely lead to an export award. It is already a familiar pattern for those picking up technology awards, as this year's list demonstrates.

The most prolific winners of awards over the years have been ICI and GEC, through the achievements of their many subsidiaries. GPT Payphone Systems, jointly owned by Britain's General Electric Company (GEC) and Germany's Siemens, secured a technology award last year, and a trophy this year for exporting to more than 60 telephone operators in nearly 50 countries. It manufactures intelligent payphones, phonecards, management systems and cashless calling systems.

ICI's Katalco Purapac Purification Processes subsidiary has also



Arbiter of export and technological excellence in industry: John Smith, secretary of the Queen's Awards office, displays the trophies

picked up an export award, after winning on technological merits last year. This is one of three ICI awards, the others being for technological achievement in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical fields.

GEC's Marconi Electronics this year has scooped a technology award as part of its burgeoning diversification from mainstream defence-related programmes.

The verdict of the Queen's Awards office on the 1992 applications was that quality was very high, especially among the exporters. What helped boost the applications was a mailshot which brought a 3 per cent response, high for this type of promotion. The technique may be used again.

Strong export sectors included high technology, electronics, transport and textiles. Among the clothing manufacturer export winners is

J. Barbour and Sons, established in the north east in 1894 and producers of the legendary oiled-cotton "Barbour" country clothing.

There was a strong automotive showing, including the Rover group's technology award for its K-series engine; Nissan's UK subsidiary (it exports to 29 countries, including Japan); Peugeot Talbot (the UK arm of France's Peugeot and a strong exporter); and the Cosworth high-performance engine division of Vickers (the engines of which have figured in motor racing, as well as equipping top-of-the-range road cars for several manufacturers).

Aerospace awards involved companies such as British Aerospace (for commercial aircraft exports) and Rolls-Royce, with its battle to maintain a key market share of tough aircraft engine markets.

Another was International Aerospace, a Bedfordshire-based company which trains pilots and flight engineers in advanced techniques so that they can become test pilots or flight-test engineers.

Agriculture had a bigger showing than usual, with four awards involving sector companies.

Smaller businesses account for a big swathe of the awards, with 68 per cent of export trophies going to companies with fewer than 200 employees. Smaller companies also account for 55 per cent of those securing technology awards. Overall, 65 per cent of awards were taken up by smaller businesses, down a little on last year's 70 per cent.

Invisible earnings by service providers accounted for 18 per cent of the export winners, a bigger proportion than last year.

Head of a growing class

John Smith is in charge of the awards' expansion

JOHN SMITH, a career civil servant with 16 years of service at the trade and industry department, took over a year ago as secretary of the Queen's Award Office, writes Derek Harris.

Mr Smith, 50, was formerly at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with stints abroad. At the trade and industry department, he has been concerned mostly with commercial relations and export promotion, notably in west and north Africa and in Europe, especially in the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries.

As the secretary, Mr Smith presides over a new expansion of the awards. A third one will be added later this year for companies demonstrably improving environmental quality through manufactures or processes which have shown themselves to be commercially successful.

Material advantage

Remploy, the employer of disabled workers, has trebled its knitwear overseas earnings in four years as it has widened its markets for military clothing and diversified into fashion, writes Derek Harris.

French gendarmes sport the sweaters (shown right) and American marines the ceremonial scarves produced by Remploy's knitwear division headquartered in Alfreton, Derbyshire. The Japanese can buy the goods on mail order. A second collection of fashion knitwear, for which Remploy has teamed up with couturier Hardy Amies, will be launched this autumn.



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JET

East and West in harmony

Rodney Hobson reports on an Anglo-Japanese joint venture

Subsidiaries set up in the United Kingdom by foreign companies, particularly by the Japanese and Americans, are now winning awards for exports.

Kemble & Company is a joint venture between the Yamaha Corporation of Japan, the world's largest musical instrument manufacturers, and the Kemble family, who have been manufacturing high-quality acoustic pianos since 1911. The combined export sales of the Kemble and Yamaha brands has more than doubled over the past three years to nearly £5 million in 1991.

Kemble started manufacturing the first Yamaha model in 1987. After the success of the pilot project, Yamaha, seeking a European manufacturing partner ahead of the single market, chose Kemble in 1988 to be its European manufacturing base for upright pianos. At the same time Yamaha invested in Kemble to increase capacity and to introduce the latest machinery and computer-based production control.

The partnership, based in Milton Keynes, flourished as a result of high-quality British craftsmanship and Yamaha know-how in production tech-



Making music: Kemble & Co's joint managing directors, Brian Kemble and Shinya Nakamichi, are mixing British craft and Yamaha knowhow

nology, along with strong support from Yamaha's European distribution companies.

Yamazaki Machinery UK makes computerised machine tools as a subsidiary of Yamazaki Mazak of Japan. It was established as a sales unit in 1981 and opened a factory at Worcester in 1987.

Kyushu Matsushita Electric (UK) has made great strides

since starting business in 1986 in Newport, Gwent. It makes printers, typewriters and telephones, exporting mainly to the European Community and the United States.

Helena Laboratories was established in 1984 as a sales company for the products of its American parent. In 1986, from a trading estate in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, it

began to produce a range of diagnostic kits for testing blood for a variety of conditions, together with the laboratory instruments for conducting the tests. The British company has built up an export trade in British products to Europe, Africa, India, the Middle East and the Pacific region. Overseas sales account for half the output.

Another company with an American parent is Hewitt-Robins International, a subsidiary of Process Technology based in North Carolina. The British end, in Glasgow, makes equipment for quarries, mines, steelworks and foundries.

International Rectifier, another subsidiary of a United States company, has been

trading since 1958 and makes power conductors for the electricity industry. New markets are being developed in eastern Europe.

Little Rock, Arkansas, is the home of Orbit Valve, whose British subsidiary is at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Since 1973 it has been designing and making valves for the oil and gas industries.

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Car makers on the right track

Foreign-owned manufacturers are honoured for export achievement

Three car manufacturers and several companies providing parts and back-up services receive awards (writes Rodney Hobson). The best-known names are Nissan of Japan and Peugeot of France, both foreign-owned and honoured for export achievements, and Rover, which gains the technology award.

The British subsidiary of Peugeot, based in Coventry, has been trading since 1980 and exports cars and parts to France. Other markets include Belgium, Spain, Australasia, the Far East, Africa and Pakistan, while new markets are being developed in Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Nissan has been trading in the United Kingdom since 1986, having set up shop in Sunderland. It exports cars to 29 countries, mainly in Europe, and sends cars to the Far East, with Taiwan a main market and even Japan starting to take British-made models.

The company is seeking opportunities in the former Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Rover Power Train, Rover's subsidiary, gains the technology award for the development of the K-series engine. With its advanced lean-burn combustion, the K-series is capable of meeting all emission limits likely to be imposed in the foreseeable future. It also gives high performance and fuel economy.

The engine castings are of aluminium alloy. The design and construction methods allow high crankshaft speeds, while reducing vibration and extending the life of the bearings. Its developers tested 875 prototypes for a total of 73,000 hours, over two million miles.

Among companies supplying parts is G. Clancy, set up in Halesowen by its parent company Clancy Holdings in 1941. It makes machined components and castings for motor vehicles. Its leading export markets are Europe and the United States, with other outlets in Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. A new market is being established in South America.

The Cosworth Engineering division of Vickers, trading since 1958, designs, develops and manufactures high-performance car engines. It won an award in 1986. It exports racing engines to the United States, where they have featured in the Indianapolis 500, America's top car race, as well as Europe and Japan. Engines for road cars go to Germany and Belgium. The company also licences a specialised casting process which generates exports of specialist equipment and low-volume prototype components.

Also exporting to the racing world is Xtrac, a small firm at Wokingham, Berkshire. Its gears and transmission systems are used in Formula One racing and rallying. This company, too, has featured in the Indianapolis race. Its largest customers are Toyota, Mitsubishi, Mazda and Nissan, the Japanese car-makers.

Technic, an export award-winner, has achieved some remarkable growth in the five years since it was established to treat tyres. It has consistently

exported its target of 80 per cent of its output, mainly to European Community countries and Scandinavia. The largest single market is Germany.

The company is one of the largest in its field, and the first of its type to win the export award. Technic was set up in 1987 by two engineers, Phil Blood and Tony Farmer, who are now joint managing directors. Turnover in the first year was £1.8 million and is now approaching £13 million. Output has risen from 3,000 tyres a week to 27,500 and the company employs 130.

Production is centred on a specially designed and built factory and office block on a five-acre site alongside the A38 trunk road at Burton-Trent, Staffordshire.

Tyres are produced for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles only, but the wide range includes tyres for high-performance sports and saloon cars for speeds up to 150mph. The tyres have to be produced to the same tough specifications as for new tyres.

Xtrac systems are used in Formula One racing and rallying

Services without frontiers

For the first time, a patents and trademark agent has won an export award, while in another first an Isle of Man business has won a similar trophy (writes Derek Harris).

RGC Jenkins & Co, whose headquarters are at Caxton Street, London, is a patent and trademark specialist. Two thirds of its income comes from overseas clients. Its best markets are Japan, the United States, Canada, Europe, Australasia and South Korea. Earnings abroad have more than doubled in three years.

The Isle of Man's trophy-getter is a financial services company, Clerical Medical International Insurance. It was established on the island in 1987, as the international arm of the 168-year-old Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, which is based in Bristol and has branches worldwide.

The Isle of Man operation increased net overseas earn-



Winning solicitors: Nick Fisher (front) and Justin More

ings by more than five times in its first three years.

The only advertising company to pick up an award for exports is Aegis Group, the holding company for the world's largest group of media specialists. One contract is for Walt Disney's media planning and space and time-buying in every European market. Aegis is quoted on the stock exchanges of London, New York and Paris.

Export earnings, which have more than doubled over three years and now account for 95 per cent of Aegis's income, arise through Carat,

its main operating division. Carat employs 1,700 people in more than 50 offices spread across 18 countries.

Among other services sector companies netting export awards is More Fisher Brown, the second firm of solicitors ever to do so. The company, with offices in the City of London, is a small partnership set up in 1988 specialising in servicing the international marine and insurance industry, including arbitration work. Earnings spring from 58 countries and have trebled over three years, now accounting for 80 per cent of turnover.

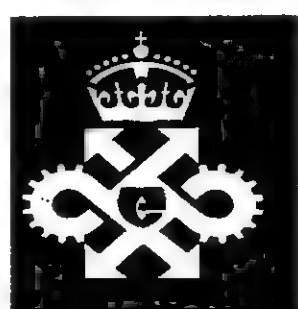
Winners clean up

A surge in the 1992 awards of trophy winners with products which have a strong environmental impact includes a number of firms in the energy business (writes Derek Harris). Among them is Vikoma International, based on the Isle of Wight, which won an award for export achievement.

Since its birth 20 years ago, when the problems of oil pollution at sea were first emerging, Vikoma has propelled itself to world prominence in making equipment to deal with oil pollution. Overseas sales account for 80 per cent of Vikoma's production. It makes booms and skimming devices which have been used in many big disasters, including the Exxon Valdez incident in Alaska in 1989 and the damage to Kuwait's oilfields in the Gulf war.

It has two manufacturing sites, at Cowes and at Wallasey on Merseyside. It employs about 150 and has grown steadily by 20 per cent a year in recent years.

There are at least seven award-winners with products



Going green: new award

having a direct environmental impact and others with an environmental aspect — for example, Rover's technology award-winning engine range with low emissions. The increasing prominence of environmentally-related products augurs well for the launch of the environmental Queen's Awards, to be unveiled next year.

A joint technology award has gone to the British Gas research and technology division in Birmingham and Hotwork Development of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Hotwork, founded in 1962, was bought out by its management in 1988. The pair won a trophy for developing a regenerative burner system which can be used on all sizes of fuel-fired furnaces. It is especially useful for systems burning natural gas and oil as fuels. Its makers say it is cheap and easy to clean and can produce savings of up to 65 per cent, paying for itself within a year.

Original research at British Gas was followed by manufacturing at Hotwork. In three years sales rose to £4.5 million, a third of them abroad.

Another technology trophy in the energy sector went to Babcock Energy, of Renfrew, Strathclyde, for a burner system that reduces nitrous oxide emissions at coal-fired power stations. The burner reduces pollutant emissions by up to 55 per cent. The company's initiative has already won it an environmental award from the Engineering Council.

An export award has gone to Warwick International of Mosyn, Chelwy, which makes additives to improve the efficiency of low-temperature detergent powders and to boost the performance of detergents that are environmentally-friendly because they do not use phosphates. Since it last won an export award in 1988, Warwick has more than doubled its exports, which go to more than 40 countries.



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Derek Harris spots high flyers in the aerospace industry

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Master classes polish flying skills

Derek Harris spots high flyers in the aerospace industry

Big guns among Britain's aerospace manufacturers figure strongly again, especially in the export awards, but a newcomer is a five-and-a-half year-old company, International Aerospace. The company honours the talents that go into making top-flight pilots and flight engineers capable of testing the latest aircraft, military and civil.

James Giles, managing director of International Aerospace, who was himself a test pilot, says it takes the cream of the crop to aspire to the top rank in flying. Worldwide, only two commercial operators, International Aerospace in Britain and another company in the United States, offer training of a sufficiently high grade to meet military requirements as well as commercial needs in testing the capabilities of new aircraft.

There are even relatively few military providers of such high-grade training: two operations in the United States, one in the United Kingdom and another in France. International Aerospace's main establishment is at Cranfield airfield in Bedfordshire but it also recently took over Imac's in-flight simulation. This almost doubled



In demand: British Aerospace has sold nearly 300 of its 146 short-haul jet airliners

turnover to about £5 million a year, of which 85 per cent is work from overseas. International Aerospace's earnings from the Far East, Europe and Scandinavia trebled in the past three years.

At Cranfield about eight new personnel are trained annually, roughly half of them pilots and the others flight engineers. Mr Giles says that it puts "a veneer of additional skill on top people". The courses include advanced aircraft handling techniques, avionics and simulation skills.

The civil engine business of Rolls-Royce, which recently clinched a £300 million contract to provide engines for Cathay Pacific's new Boeing 777 fleet, has scooped an export award as it fights for its share of one of the toughest international markets.

Rolls-Royce is ranged against the two key American manufacturers, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric (GE). There had been fears that Rolls-Royce might come a poor third in the race to power Boeing's new aircraft, a medium-range jet which is the only

Only the cream of the crop can aspire to flying's top rank — testing new aircraft

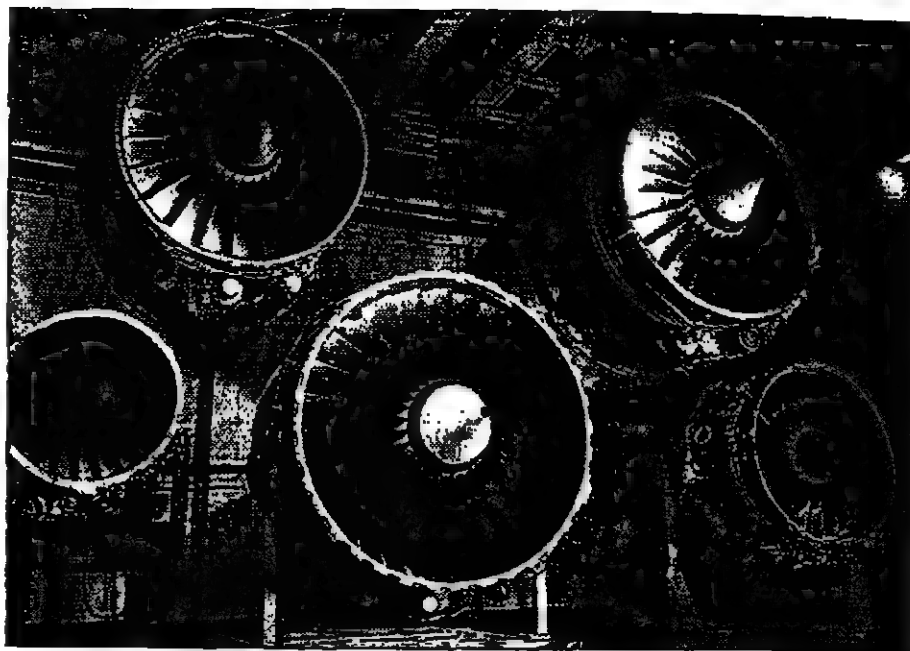
fresh design it will manufacture this decade, after British Airways decided to buy Pratt & Whitney engines.

The Cathay order - gives Rolls-Royce a 28 per cent share of the 777 engines market, behind Pratt & Whitney but ahead of GE. Rolls-Royce matched the key order with its Trent 800,

which will be the most powerful engine yet built by the company. It has a maximum thrust of 80,000 lbs.

The Rolls-Royce order book for Trent now stands at 254 for all versions. If all options are included, it means there are £2 billion-worth of orders in the pipeline. A slightly smaller version, the Trent 700, has been developed to power the Airbus A330, Boeing 777's European rival. The Rolls-Royce engine accounts for 41 per cent of A330 engine orders so far.

British Aerospace's commercial aircraft interests, recently split between three new divisions, have earned an export award for success with various commercial airliners and business jets. They have also supplied the wings for aircraft produced by the Air-



High and mighty: the Trent is in the centre of this display of Rolls-Royce engines

bus consortium, in which BAE has a 20 per cent stake. In 1988 BAE won a technology award for the wing design for the Airbus A320.

Last year there were 27 BAE 146 jet airliners ordered, worth about £385 million. BAE has sold close to 300 of these four-engine aircraft, which are short-haul airliners noted for quietness of operation. Its Jetstream airliners have also proved popular. Dowty Aerospace, Gloucester, a subsidiary of the Dowty group, has won its second export award (the first was in 1980) for sales of aircraft

products such as landing gear, propellers and flaps. About 55 per cent of its sales are abroad. Last year it won a technology award for propeller design.

Another aerospace specialist with an export award is Dorset-based Penny & Giles Data Recorders, part of Penny & Giles International. It makes aircraft flight data recorders for military and civil use, including the armoured-plated "black box" recorders intended to survive a crash and help unravel unresolved mysteries. The company has seen steady annual sales growth of up to 15 per cent over the past

five years and exports now account for nearly two thirds of sales. Turnover jumped by a fifth last year.

L.A. Rumbold of Camberley in Surrey makes galleys and lavatory compartments for aircraft use. It won an export award last year and has now added another. It has doubled its exports in one year. Aeroconstrux, of Horley, Surrey, which has won an export award, sells 80 per cent abroad. It stocks and distributes aeronautical components, mainly for British-built or British-equipped aircraft.

Cards do nicely overseas

Two companies involved in the production of plastic cards have won export awards (writes Rodney Hobson).

GPT Payphone Systems makes phonecards and payphones. Based in Liverpool, it is owned jointly by GEC and Siemens.

The equipment is easily adaptable for foreign currencies and is designed for all climates, thus allowing communications to be brought to remote locations.

GPT has exported to 60 telephone administrations in 48 countries. It won the technology award last year.

For Graceform, which trades as Oakwood Design, this is the second export award. The company designs and manufactures machinery for the production of bank cards, credit cards and telephone cards.

The Letchworth-based company recently pioneered the development of photo ID card systems for banks and in the security field to curb fraud. Two of its card systems incorporate video images of photographs. The company is at the forefront of the "smart card" business in which microchips are embedded in the cards.

The most important markets are North America and Europe but sales are now penetrating the Far East, particularly Singapore, Japan and South Korea, and eastern Europe. Earlier intensive marketing efforts in the former Eastern bloc are beginning to pay off, with new markets firmly established in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Oakwood Design was formed in 1977 and is still a private company. It has financed its rapid growth entirely by its own efforts, without any government loans or outside assistance.

Sales have shown strong growth in the years since the first award was won in 1987. In that year, exports were just 58 per cent of the £1.6 million turnover. This has grown to 86 per cent of last year's £5.4 million sales.



Jam today: staff at award-winning Fortnum & Mason

Fortnum wins with tea and biscuits

Fortnum & Mason, the London store established on Piccadilly in 1707, is the oldest company to figure in the Queen's Awards list, earning an export trophy for mounting sales of high-quality British foodstuffs abroad (writes Derek Harris). It is one of a cluster of food and drink companies which have earned export awards.

Tea, biscuits and preserves are the key weapons used by Fortnum in its battle for overseas sales. The Japanese in particular, with their taste for prestige labels, have taken to Fortnum's offerings, and Pacific Rim countries have become as important to the company as the United States, Canada and Australasia. Fortnum & Mason now has

shops within shops in about a dozen leading department stores in Japan. It also has a restaurant in Mitsukoshi's main Tokyo store. Fortnum & Mason has a long history of selling overseas (often to expatriates) and last year exports rose 47 per cent. Substantial trade in fish to mainland European markets has been built up by Richard

Coulbeck out of the Grimsby fish docks on south Humber-side. The 17-year-old company has promoted the sale abroad of fish species not traditionally eaten in Britain, such as monkfish, dogfish and ling. Scotprime Seafoods of Ayr, Scotland, has also increased fish exports this way. The fast-growing company, established

in 1988, trades in a variety of fish and other frozen seafood. It is a subsidiary of Bluecrest Foods, part of the Booker group of companies. Lanarkshire-based Inver House Distillers, bought out by its managers in 1988, now sells whisky in about 50 overseas markets and exports are the biggest proportion of turnover.

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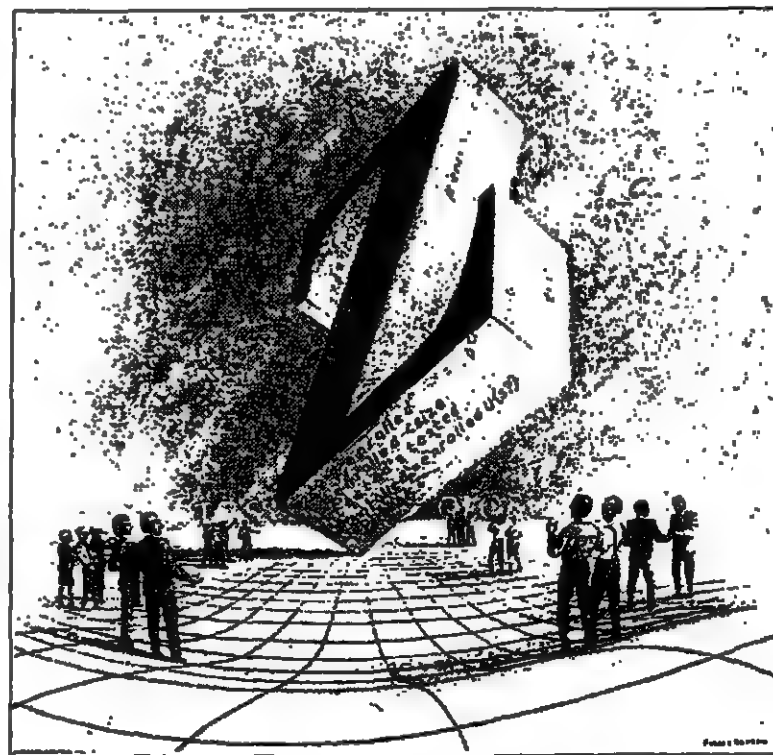
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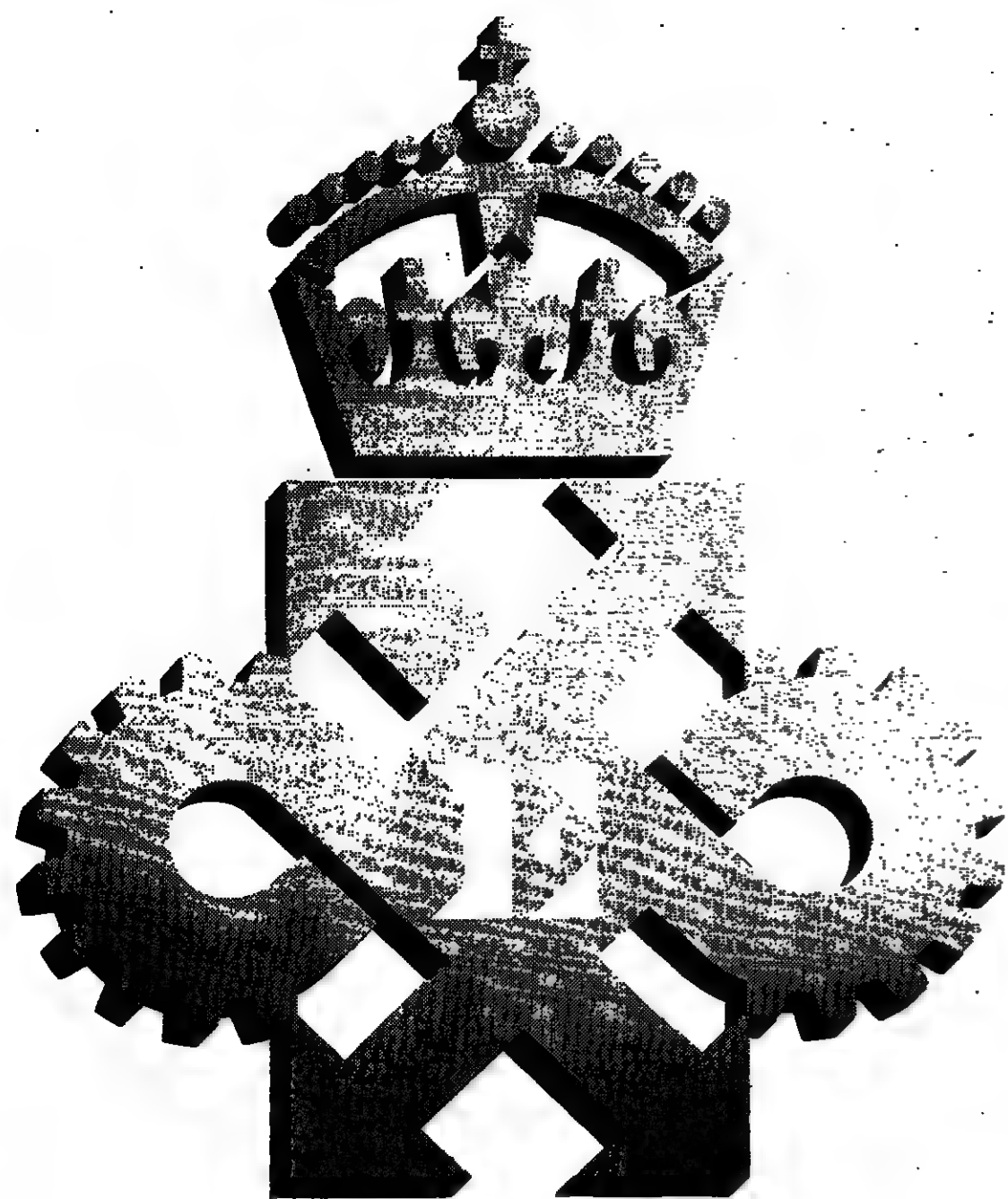


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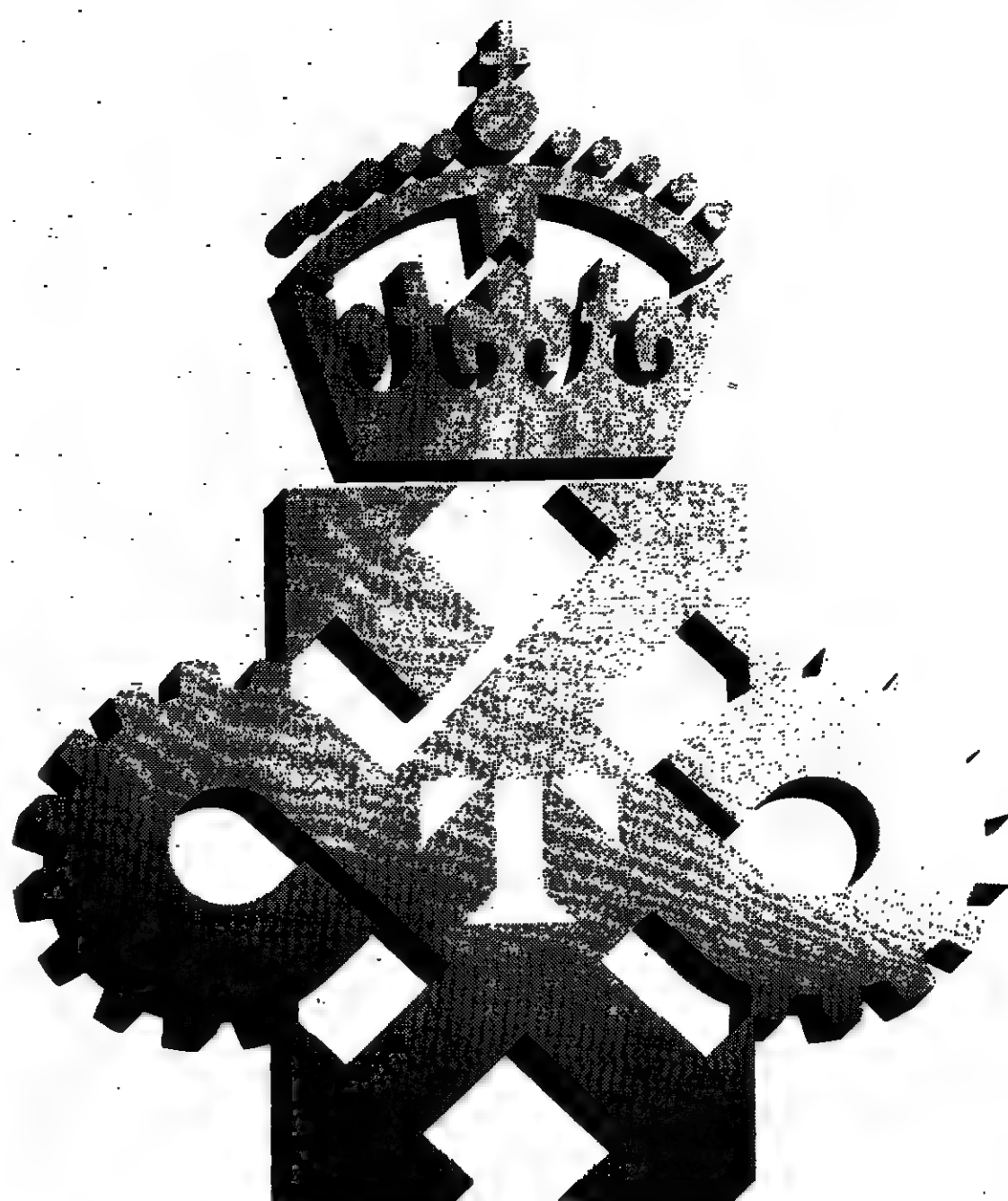
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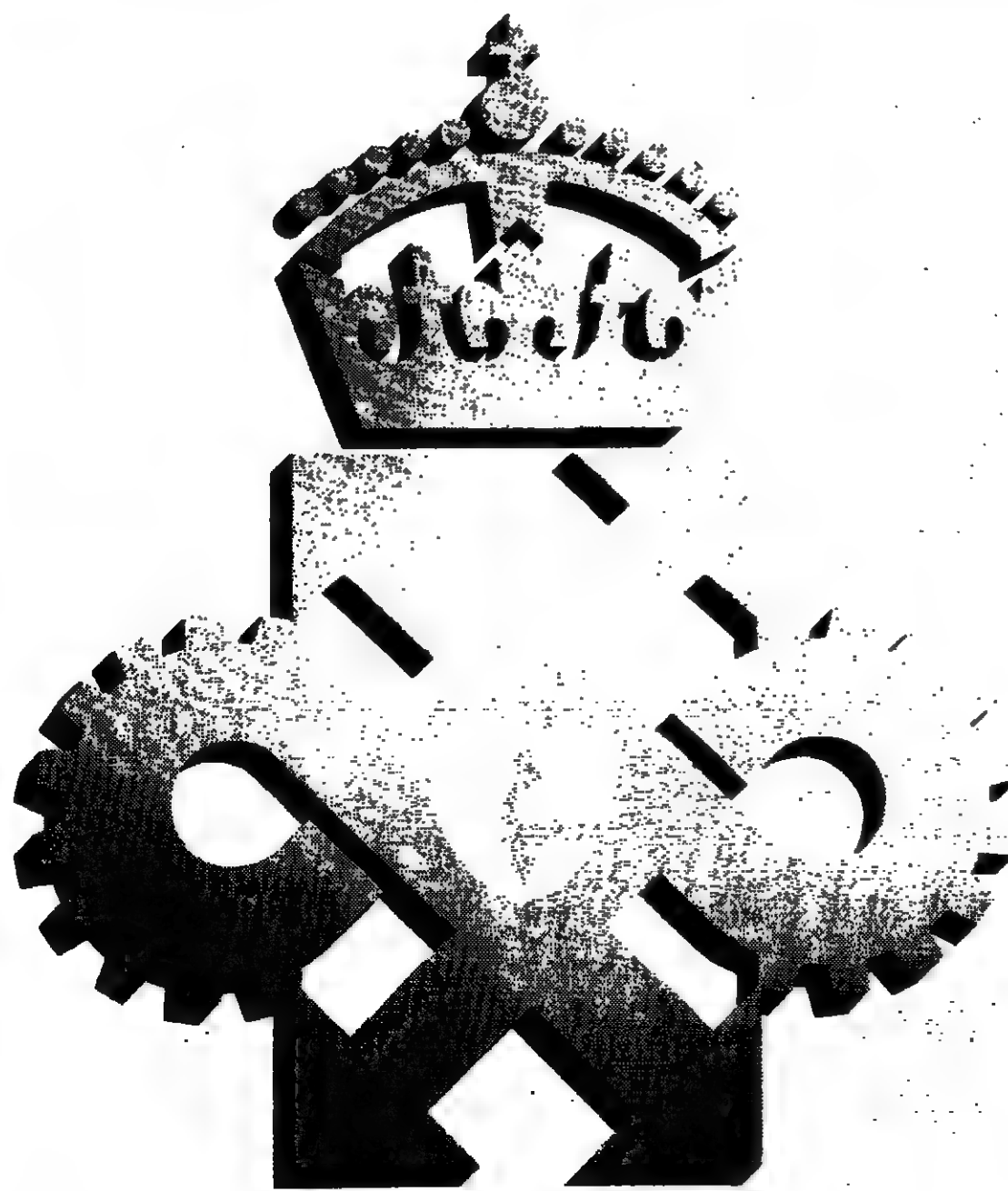
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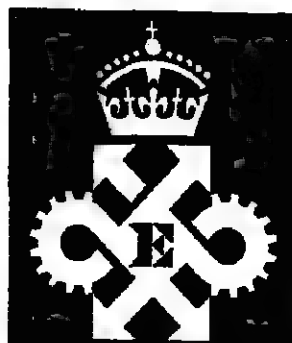
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The 1992 Queen's Award winners



THE following have been granted the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1992.

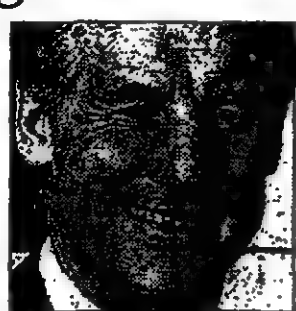
Aegis Group, London SW1: media planning and buying.
Acrocontract, Horley, Surrey: aircraft spares and repairs.
Aco-Coil, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: aluminium coil.
APV Crepac, Eastbourne, East Sussex: stainless steel positive rotary lobe pumps.
Associated Timber Services, Newmarket, Suffolk: timber merchants.
J Barbour & Sons, South Shields, Tyne & Wear: country style clothing.
Baxter Woodhouse & Taylor, Macclesfield, Cheshire: ducting for the aircraft industry.
The Binding Site, Edgworth, Birmingham, West Midlands: test kits for medical research and diagnosis.
Bisley Office Equipment, Woking, Surrey: office equipment.
British Aerospace (Commercial Aircraft), Hatfield, Hertfordshire: commercial aircraft and spares, wings for Airbus.
British Gas, On Line Inspection Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland: pipeline inspection service.
British Soap, Bicester, Oxfordshire: soap.
British Steel, General Steels Division, Rotherham, Yorkshire: heavy structural steel.
Britannia (T.R.), Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: transfer printing papers.
BWE, Ashford, Kent: continuous extrusion, cold pressure welding and wire and rod cleaning equipment.
Chase Research, Basingstoke, Hampshire: computer peripherals.
Chloride Industrial Batteries, Swinton, Greater Manchester: electric batteries.
Chubb Safe Equipment, Wolverhampton, West Midlands: safes, vaults, cabinets.
City Technology, Portsmouth, Hampshire: electrochemical gas sensors and accessories.
G Clancy, Halesowen, West Midlands: vehicle engine components.
Clerical Medical International Insurance, Douglas, Isle of Man: insurance and investment services.
Colvera, Romford, Essex: automotive sensors and potentiometers.
Compaq Computer Manufacturing, Bishopcleeve, Renfrewshire, Scotland: computers and peripheral equipment.
Compu Inc UK, trading as CompuType, Hull, North Humberside: photographic bar code printed labels.
Compugraphics Intl, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: photo masks for semiconductor.
Conoco, London SE1: petroleum, coke and petroleum products.
Contour Seals, Farnborough, Hampshire: aircraft seats.
Coors Ceramics Electronics, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: ceramic substrates.
Data Connection, Enfield,



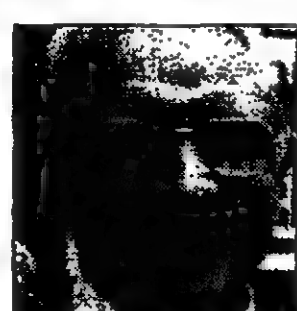
Looking up: Mr Michael Bly, of Hoyland Fox, Penistone, Sheffield, makers of garden, golf and fishing umbrella frames. More than half of the company's output is exported

Sifting out a thousand candidates

IN MOST years, more than 1,000 applications for a Queen's Award pass through the sifting process at the Queen's Awards Office in London's Horseferry Road. More than 3,000 winners have been selected since the awards began in 1965. Two-thirds or more of the awards have been going to smaller businesses with 200 employees or fewer. A modest proportion of these are subsidiaries of bigger companies. Screening of applications is done by a series of committees with an additional input from specialists. Likely winners come under scrutiny



Sir Robin Butler from two committees. Then they go to a senior committee, the prime minister's advisory committee, as the awards are



made by the Queen on the advice of the prime minister. Chairman of this senior committee is Sir Robin Butler, head of the home civil service. Two new faces for this year's awards are Sir John Fainlough, chairman of the Engineering Council, and Sir Hugh Bidwell, chairman of British Invisibles. Other members are Sir Peter Gregson, permanent secretary of the trade and industry department; Sir Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board; Sir Brian Corby, president of the Confederation of British Industry; and Jack Jones, representing the Trades Union Congress. Two independent members are John E. Bolton and Mr J.M. Raizman.

Helena Laboratories (UK), Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: medical diagnostic kits and laboratory instruments.
Hewlett-Packard International, Yoker, Glasgow: vibrating screens, feeders and shake-outs.
Hoyland Fox, Penistone, Sheffield: umbrella frames.
Huntleigh Technology (Healthcare Division), Luton: electro-medical equipment.
ICI Katalco, Parsippany, New Jersey: catalysts and absorbents.
Imetronic, Newbury, Berkshire: laser optical products.
International Additives, Wallasey, Merseyside: animal feed flavours and sweeteners.
International Aerospace, Cranfield, Bedfordshire: flight training school.
International Rectifier Co (GB), Oxford, Surrey: power semiconductor.
Intersolar Group, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: solar-powered products.
Javer House Distillers, Airdrie, Lanarkshire: whisky.
JLG Industries (Europe), Cumbernauld, Strathclyde: aerial work platforms.
R.G.C. Jenkins & Co, London SW1: patent and trademark agents.
Kemble & Company, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: pianos.
The Kemble Instrument Company, Burgess Hill, West Sussex: laboratory instruments for analysing and diagnosis.
Kyushu Matsushita Electric (UK), Newport, Gwent: printers, telephones, pbs systems.
Linux Printing Technologies, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: ink jet printers.
London Business School, London NW1: business management education.
Magnex Scientific, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: magnet systems for diagnostic imaging.
Jim Marshall (Products), Milton Keynes, Buckingham-

shire: amplification equipment.
Mayflower Glass, East Boldon, Tyne and Wear: glass sculptures.
Mediscene Contract Manufacturing, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: medical diagnostics.
The Michael Ross Group, Hayes, Middlesex: handbrake knitter.
More Fisher Brown, London E1: auditors.
Moschman & Watkins (Theatre) trading as Edwards and Edwards, London WC2: theatre ticket agency.
Neill Johnstone, Langholm, Dumfriesshire, Scotland: worsted fabrics.
Newbridge Networks, Newport, Gwent, Wales: multiplexers.
Newman Martin and Bachman, London EC3: insurance brokers.
Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), Sunderland, Tyne and Wear: motor vehicles.
O.I.L., Woking, Surrey: support services for the offshore oil industry.
Orbit Valve, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: valves and integrated valve control systems.
Oxford Magnet Technology, Eynsham, Witney, Oxfordshire: magnet systems for diagnostic imaging.
Pall Europe, Portsmouth, Hampshire: filtration products.
Pandrol UK, Woking, Surrey: rail fastenings.
Partridge Holdings, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire: natural history films.
Pennine Europe (Impregol), Blonkirk, Walsall, West Midlands: cathodic protection systems.
Perry & Giles Data Records, Christchurch, Dorset: data records.
Perfecscall, Londonderry, Northern Ireland: medical packaging-chevrons pouch.
Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, Coventry, West Midlands: motor cars, parts and accessories.

Phase 3, near Stilton, North Yorkshire: high performance outdoor clothing.
Piccadilly, Manchester: footwear.
Poker Plastics, near Morton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire: plastic mudguards for bicycles.
Polymer Plast, Banbury, Oxfordshire: specialised equipment for mechanical handling.
Reamplay (Kaitwear Division), Alfreton, Derbyshire: knitwear.
Reichman Transducer Systems, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire: electronic measuring instruments.
Richard Cowbell, Grimsby, South Humberside: fish.
Risoma (UK), Eddes, Greater Manchester: self-adhesive materials.
Robinson & Hanson, Blyth-on-Tyne, Tyne and Wear: processing of scrap metal.
Rolls-Royce Aerospace Group Civil Engine Business, Derby, Derbyshire: civil aero-engines and parts.
Ross Breeders, Newbridge, Midlothian, Scotland: poultry breeding, livestock.
L.A. Rumbold, Camberley, Surrey: aircraft interior products.
SEJ Regis Low, London EC4: insurance broking services.
Schumacher, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: filters.
Scotprint, Seaforth, Ayr, Ayrshire: seafood.
Silverline, London EC1: ladies' outerwear.
Specialist, Byfleet, Surrey: computer boards.
Stakehill Engineering, Bolton, Lancashire: steel/plastic laminate and plastic mouldings to produce pallet dunnage.
Starstream trading as The Children's Channel, London WC2: TV programmes for children.
Technic Group, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire: retrain-

ed tyres for cars and light trucks.
Technigraph Products, Theford, Norfolk: litho plate processing equipment.
Thermomax, Bangor, Northern Ireland: evacuating heat pipe solar collectors.
Thema Secure Science, Swindon, Wiltshire: high security magnetic tape and tape readers.
Thornton Precision Forging, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: precision forged and machined components.
Tibbert, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire: mens, ladies and childrens outer clothing.
Thomson, Kettering, Northamptonshire: rotary printing press.
Tybrook, London SW1: transport asset rental.
University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: administration of examinations.
The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester: education and research.
Valpar Industrial, Bangor, Northern Ireland: drinks dispenser tubes.
Varn Products, Irlam, Greater Manchester: chemicals for the printing industry.
Vickers, Cosworth Engineering Division, Northampton, Northamptonshire: motor car engines and transmissions.
Vikram International, Cowes, Isle of Wight: oil pollution control and recovery equipment.
Warwick International, Mostyn Holywell, Clwyd, North Wales: specialty chemicals.
Williams Fairley Engineering, Stockport, Cheshire: bridges.
Xtrat, Wokingham, Berkshire: transmission systems.
Yamashita (Machinery) UK, Worcester: computer controlled machine tools.



The following have been awarded the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement 1992:

APV Baker - Escalator Division, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: public service escalators.
Acorn Computers Group, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: the ARM 32 bit, low cost RISC microprocessor.
Amerada Hess, London W1: floating production facility for offshore production of oil and gas.
Amerham International - Pharmaceutical Division, Amersham, Buckinghamshire: Ceretec, brain imaging agent.
Andergange, Aberdeen, Scotland: adjustable stabiliser for drilled oil wells.
Babcock Energy, Renfrew, Scotland: axial swirl burner for reducing oxides of nitrogen.
British Broadcasting Corporation - Engineering Directorate, London W12: stereo sound television (Ncam 728).
British Gas - Midlands Research Station of the Research and Technology Division, Solihull, West Midlands: regenerative burner system for fuel fired furnaces.
Cotswold Pig Development Company, Rothwell, Lincolnshire: genetic improvement in litter size of pigs.
Crosfield Electronics, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: computerised pagination system.
Defence Research Agency - Optical and Display Science Division of the Electronics Division, Malvern, Worcestershire: advanced mixtures for liquid crystal displays.
Double R Controls, Heywood, Lancashire: in-line certification of magnetic media.

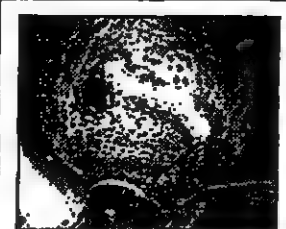
Filtronic Components, Shipley, West Yorkshire: micro-wave switched multiplexer.
Glaxo Group Research, Greenford, Middlesex: development of Cefuroxime Axetil, an orally active broad spectrum antibiotic.
Hotwork Development, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire: regenerative burner system for fuel-fired furnaces.
IBM United Kingdom Laboratories, Winchester, Hampshire: mathematically based computer software system.
ICI Agrochemicals - the Insecticide Project Team of the Research and Development Department, Haslemere, Surrey: synthetic pyrethroid insecticides.
ICI Pharmaceuticals, Macclesfield, Cheshire: development of Diprivan, an injectable general anaesthetic.
In-Spec Manpower & Inspection Services - Electrical Projects Group, Dyce, Aberdeen, Scotland: non-invasive fault diagnosis in AC induction motors.
Lucas Nitrotec Services, Birmingham, West Midlands: Nitrotec process to upgrade engineering performance of low alloy steels.
Marconi Electronics - Stannore Unit, Stannore, Middlesex: integrated micro-wave receiver for satellite television.
Merck - Industrial Chemical Division, Poole, Dorset: advanced mixtures for liquid crystal displays.
Mercol Desalting, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: epoxy resin process for refurbishing potable water mains.
Ometron, London SE26: vibration pattern imager.
Oxford Lasers, Oxford, Oxfordshire: 100 watt copper laser.
Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Oxford, Oxfordshire: mathematically based computer software system.
Pebec, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Wales: N-chlorophthalimide, a major pharmaceutical intermediate.
Pilkington Communication Systems, Rhyll, Clwyd, Wales: optical backplane connector for cable termination.
Portakabin, York, North Yorkshire: Pullman series of relocatable buildings.
Racal Radar Defence Systems, Chessington, Surrey: radar identification system for defence purposes.
Rank Taylor Hobson, Thurston, Leicestershire: Form Talsurf series of measuring gauges based on computer technology.
Rover Group: Rover Power Train, Longbridge, Birmingham, West Midlands: the K series engine.
Shelbourne Reynolds Engineering, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: machinery to harvest small grain and seed crops.
Silsoe Research Institute, Silsoe, Bedfordshire: machinery to harvest small grain and seed crops.
SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals Research and Development, Epsom, Surrey: Bacitracin, antibiotic for bacterial skin infections and the elimination of nasal staphylococci.
TSL Group, Wallend, Tyne and Wear: high purity quartz powder and ingots.
Vector Fields, Kidlington, Oxford, Oxfordshire: software for electro-magnetic device research.
VideoLogic, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire: full motion digital video adaptor for personal computers.

Happy jack

Carol Chell, presenter of *Jack In The Box*, has good reason to celebrate. London-based Starstream, which produces the satellite television Children's Channel, has quadrupled its export earnings in the last three years.



Carol Chell



Cotton boll damage

Grub defeat

ICI Agrochemicals gained a technological award for its environmentally friendly pyrethroid insecticides, one of which is Karate (active ingredient lambda-cyhalothrin), which protects plants such as cotton bolls against attack.

AMERADA HESS LIMITED

is proud to receive the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in respect of the Company's development of a floating production facility for use on the Ivanhoe and Rob Roy oil fields in the UK North Sea.

Particular thanks are expressed to staff, contractors and suppliers who through the quality of their efforts have made this achievement possible. Our thanks also go to our partners, Deminor UK Oil and Gas Limited, Kerr McGee Oil (UK) plc and Pict Petroleum plc for their support throughout.

DENGE POWER PROJECTS LIMITED

is extremely proud that its continued growth in the international electrical engineering markets and its contribution to Britain's exports has resulted in the receipt of the Queen's Award For Export Achievement.

The Company wishes to offer its thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to the Company's success.

Peboc

We are delighted to announce that we are the proud recipients of the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement 1992. It was earned for our innovative development of an economical and environmentally-friendly process for the manufacture of a major pharmaceutical intermediate.

We are indebted to our customers, shareholders and staff for their contribution.

DUNLOP INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY LTD

is delighted to receive the Queen's Award for Export in respect of its technology transfer services. It is an honour and reward to all our staff.

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Breeding pigs by numbers

Awards given to agriculture include one for a computerised porcine dating service

A novel computer dating scheme for pigs has won a Lincolnshire pig-breeding company the award for technology, writes Rodney Hobson. This method of speeding up the rate of genetic improvement in livestock has made Cotswold Pig Development Company the first such company to gain this distinction.

Cotswold achieved a breakthrough in pig breeding when, in 1986, it introduced its unique Group Nucleus Breeding Scheme. The basis is a new statistical technique known as Blup (best linear unbiased prediction), for which Cotswold developed specialised computer software.

Linked with artificial insemination, the scheme allows the performance of pigs on different farms to be compared with each other. Previously, genetic comparisons could only be made by measuring pigs in the same environment. This limited the numbers of pigs that could be tested, and the rate of improvement.

Cotswold predicts that the technique will allow an extra pig per litter to be produced every five years, worth £2,000 a year to the farmer with a 250-sow herd.

Ross Breeders, part of Hillsdown Holdings, has gained its second export award for poultry breeding. It now exports half its total output to 60 countries world wide.

On the animal feeding side, an export award has been won by International Additives, part of the Hays group. Its products improve the taste of animal feed and pet foods. Through its overseas network of subsidiaries, offices and

distributors, it supplies an extensive spread of markets that has just been extended to China. Exports have risen sharply to account for more than half the total output.

The insecticide project team of the research and development department of ICI Agrochemicals gains the technology award for the development of pyrethroid insecticides for agricultural use.

These new pyrethroids are more active than the older forms, provide a high potency from low spraying rates and are degradable in the environment. A broad spectrum of pests, including some that are resistant to other insecticides, is controlled without damage to crops.

A joint award for technology has been won by Shelbourne Reynolds Engineering at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Silsoe Research Institute in Bedfordshire, which have developed a stripper head for combine harvesters that takes grain or seeds with little chaff or leaf material, leaving most of the stalk standing in the field.

Subsequent stages of harvesting are more efficient. As well as being used for UK cereals, the device is in widespread use in North America, particularly for the rice crop.

Format International designs and manufactures specialist computer software for the world animal feed market. Its exports now account for 80 per cent of total earnings. Fabbec manufactures stainless steel milk tanks for dairy farmers and exports to Europe and Japan. Both have won the export award.

University research can become a vital, innovative source of income, reports Rodney Hobson

Rodney Hobson

City Technology in Portsmouth, a subsidiary of City University, has won its second export award, bringing to four its awards total. It has been trading since 1977 and manufactures gas sensors to control safety, energy-saving and emissions. Two of its awards have been for technology, two for export.

City Technology exports more than 80 per cent of its products. Total exports have grown by 980 per cent since 1985 and markets include Europe, Australasia, the Americas, India, Israel, Turkey and the Far East. The company hopes to double its £7.5 million turnover in the next few years.

A growing proportion of the foreign earnings at Umist (the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) comes from research services and technology-transfer work carried out through its subsidiary, Umist Ventures. Research earnings come from 113 countries and research sponsorship has been received from 16 Japanese companies.

In 1990-91, Umist brought in more than £10 million, with research earning more than £2 million; student fees accounted for £6 million.

Professor Harold Hankins, Umist principal, says: "Few, if any, universities can match the 17 per cent of total income which we bring in from abroad."

Oxford University Computing Laboratory, in conjunction with



A broad degree on offer: George Bain, London Business School principal, whose programmes use material developed worldwide.

IBM United Kingdom Laboratories, has won a technology award for developing a computer programming method for use in the IBM Customer Information Control System. It is the first time that a university department has been granted a Queen's Award for the second time, and IBM is also a previous winner.

The achievement is the result of 10 years' collaboration that began after a chance meeting between Professor Tony Hoare, director of

the programming research group at Oxford, and Tony Kenny, manager of the IBM system.

Professor Hoare says: "Our long-term partnership with IBM has contributed simultaneously to commercial advantage, to the progress of pure science and to the improvement of academic education."

London Business School, established in 1965, is one of the leading institutions of its kind in the world. Under Professor George Bain, the principal, it offers a broad portfolio

of degree and non-degree programmes to managers from all over the world. Teaching is through case studies and practical projects, designed in conjunction with businesses across the globe. All of its overseas earnings, which have doubled over the past three years, come from students' fees.

Set up in 1858, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate is by far the largest UK-based examining body for English as a foreign language. The syndi-

cate also administers schools examinations on behalf of education ministries and private centres around the world. More than 60 per cent of its earnings comes from overseas.

The syndicate now has 450 full-time staff and more than 12,000 examiners; a million candidates sat eight million question papers in 1991. Full-time staff are stationed permanently in countries as diverse as Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Thailand and Namibia.

Honour that counts

Specialist, a Surrey-based company launched in 1986, is among the clutch of computer and computer peripherals companies to have won the award for export, writes Rodney Hobson. Specialist is now one of the biggest suppliers of micro-computer enhancement products in Europe, with turnover of more than £10 million.

Gödel Escher Bach, a small firm of management consultants based in London, aims its products, described as "user-promiscuous", at computer-illiterate directors. Exports to Europe, the Far East and the US have more than trebled over the past three years, and account for more than 90 per cent of earnings.

Data Connection, also based in London, is used as an expert partner by the international giants including IBM, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and NCR. More than £7 million of its £8 million turnover comes from exports. Profit, running at more than £2 million, is distributed to the 123 employees through a profit-related pay scheme and an employee benefit trust.

Compag Computer Manufacturing at Bishopston, Renfrewshire, established in 1987, manufactures personal computers and peripheral equipment. Exports to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Far East, Australasia and the US have increased freight services to and from Scotland.

Chasing a global market

Long and arduous bargaining can be part of the search for new export markets for technology, as Dunlop International Technology, part of the BTR group, has found, writes Rodney Hobson. The company provides services for transferring technology for companies within the BTR group and outside it.

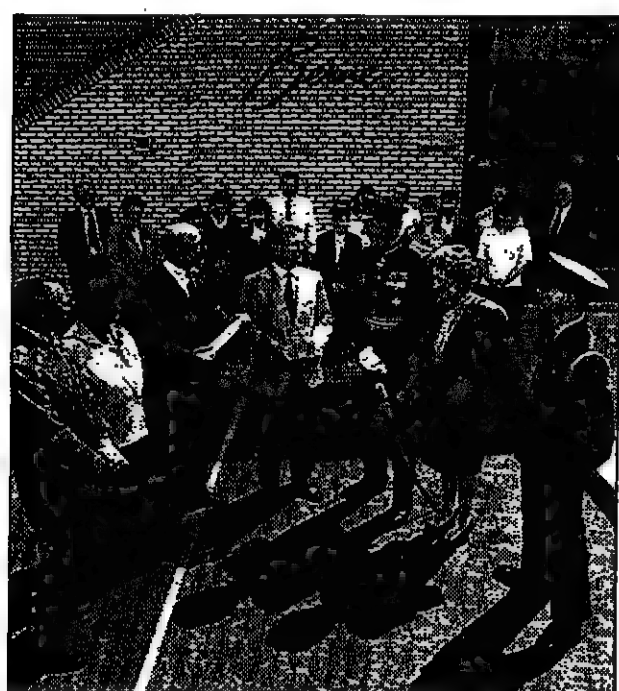
A typical example was a £21 million order for the supply of manufacturing technology, engineering design, training and specialist machinery, mainly from the UK, for the Chongqing tyre factory in China's Sichuan province.

This contract involved a complex marketing operation but John Sharrock, managing director, says: "Many emerging nations are now coming to appreciate the benefits of licensing technology from successful companies in the West, and we believe that more and more UK companies will realise the advantages of manufacturing projects overseas."

Dunlop currently has projects underway in 10 countries and its award is for exports.

Firms may celebrate as they choose

Time for pomp and ceremony



Frank Lowther, Northamptonshire Lord Lieutenant, presents a 1991 award to Berne clothing workers

The Queen's Awards are given for five years, although if during that time a company reaches up fresh achievements, it can apply for another award. Export achievement must usually be shown over three years.

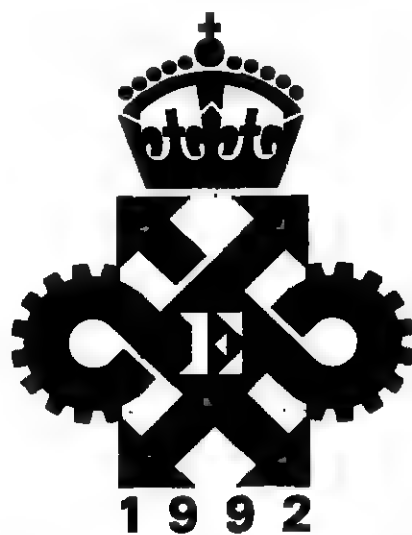
An award is not won just by the leader of a business; it recognises the achievement of the whole enterprise. Reflecting this is the way the awards are presented, usually at the headquarters of the enterprise and by the lord lieutenant (acting as the Queen's representative) of the county in which it is located.

Handed over are a grant of appointment, presented as a case of steel and the Queen's Award emblem, in stainless steel and enclosed in a

transparent acrylic block. The Queen invites three representatives of each award-winning business to a Buckingham Palace party. They should represent the spectrum of the company's personnel.

ICI Pharmaceuticals celebrated in an unusual way when it won an award in 1991, by supporting two community projects. Its Cheshire-based employees gave £13,500 to set up a light and sound studio at Wilmslow, to help improve the communication skills of people newly out of hospital and with learning difficulties. Macclesfield Multiple Sclerosis Society benefited by being donated a purpose-built minibus.

DEREK HARRIS



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations CMI.

CMI Insurance Company Ltd., part of the international arm of Clerical Medical Investment Group, has become the first life office to win the Queen's Award for Export Achievement, in recognition of their expertise in international insurance markets.

CMI's net income has increased

each year, contributing significantly towards Britain's export drive.

CMI now operates in over 60 countries across Europe, Africa, Asia and The Americas.

To all of them at CMI throughout the world, from all of us at Clerical Medical, congratulations.

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INNS AND

The French keep quiet

ON THE surface at least, relations between French and English lawyers remain cordial. The colloquium of the Franco-British Lawyers' Society will take place in Paris on May 16 and 17. The programme will cover the use of judicial experts, succession law, pension funds and securities law - but not the controversial French law which in part sets out to restrict the activities of British lawyers in Paris. But then, French lawyers have always been happy to discuss French law with the British, so long as they do not try to practice it.

Mortgage mate

HARD times can prompt innovations. Hamlin Slove, the West End solicitors, has developed a computer programme to help mortgage recovery as part of its secured lending group. The service features a computer link between clients and the firm. Clients now have access to check the status of cases at any time - to see, for instance, which are outstanding, whether summons have

LAW TIMES



Common-law crises

Living together outside marriage has, over the past 25 years, become increasingly socially acceptable in England and Wales. The fact that nationally collected social statistics now include cohabitation as a separate category is evidence of official recognition of this "new" status. While the English language struggles to find appropriate terminology for the phenomenon, growing numbers of couples are choosing to cohabit either as a prelude or alternative to marriage.

Yet few of them give any serious thought to the legal consequences of their decision to cohabit until a crisis arises in the form of relationship breakdown, the death of their partner, or perhaps possession proceedings. Many assume wrongly that the law confers rights on cohabitants in relation to occupation of the family home and other shared property, similar to those enjoyed by married couples, after a fixed period of cohabitation.

Such myths about "common law marriages" probably stem from rights which do exist within many other common-law jurisdictions, such as those that exist in Canada, Australia and the United States, where cohabitation is recognised as a relationship akin to marriage, and relationship breakdown disputes are governed by a divorce law equivalent founded on family law principles.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in England and Wales. Although recent changes to the law now incorporated in the Children Act 1989 do offer the possibility of some adjustment of unmarried parents' property for the benefit of their children, disputes between cohabitants as to who should remain in the family home or what contributions each partner has made to its purchase are principally a matter of property law rather than family law.

Even though unmarried couples often arrange their affairs in the same way as married couples, pooling their income and dividing the wage-earning and home-making roles, the flexible principles which apply to married couples in this regard are not extended to the unmarried.

Attempts in the 1970s by Lord Denning to adopt a similarly flexible approach with regard to property disputes between unmarried couples were subsequently rejected by the courts. In sharp contrast to the position

Couples who set up home without signing a marriage vow may find themselves unprotected by the law when domestic problems arise. Anne Barlow reports

of spouses, a long number of years caring for the home and children does not raise any entitlement to maintenance on relationship breakdown, and will not of itself give rise to any proprietary interest in a property owned by a cohabitee's partner. Neither will it increase the share of a cohabitee who is a joint owner and who has been disadvantaged in terms of earning capacity as a result. This often leaves a great sense of injustice, which may grow more acute the more socially acceptable cohabitation becomes.

This is not to say that cohabitants are always treated as unconnected individuals. The piecemeal and inconsistent approach of the law with regard to such relationships makes legal advice important in relation to every proposed joint venture or possible area of dispute, and creates problems which cry out for legal reform.

There are numerous examples. Orders giving protection from a violent spouse can be obtained in the High Court, the county court and also the often more accessible magistrates' court. A cohabitee who is the victim of domestic violence has only the county court remedy.

Social security legislation treats men and women who "live together as husband and wife" in the same way as married couples with respect to means-tested benefits, which results in a net reduction of the benefit payable to the couple.

Yet non-means-tested benefits, such as the retirement pension, unemployment and sickness benefit, where entitlement is determined by national insurance contributions, include additional payments only for a dependent spouse and not a dependent cohabitee. Similarly, the Inland Revenue cannot

award a married couple's income tax allowance to a cohabiting couple, even where one partner is working and the other is their dependant.

Spouses automatically inherit from each other if they die without making a will. Yet a cohabitee will have no such entitlement to inherit from their deceased partner's estate. If, and only if, a cohabitee was dependent on their partner who died without making a will, or did not include them as a beneficiary, can they claim maintenance against the estate. But in both these situations, the law is far less generous than to a spouse in a similar position.

Cohabitants in rented accommodation also face difficulties on relationship breakdown or death of their partner to which in some situations the law fails to provide any solution at all, no matter how long a partner may have resided there. Much will depend on the type of tenancy and whether the tenancy is in both their names or not. But where it protects spouses, the law does not provide any occupation rights of a family home for cohabitants. Although the traditional legal disadvantages for children born of a cohabitation relationship have been removed, the law still does not treat them in the same way as children of a married couple at birth, as parental responsibility is given only to the mother.

Even the recent Children Act 1989 makes no distinction between children born outside marriage into a stable relationship and those born of a more casual encounter. However, the Act does at last provide a simple means for unmarried parents to agree formally to share parental responsibility. This broadly then places the parents in the

same position as married parents in relation to their children.

As these examples show, the legal consequences of living together outside marriage can be far-reaching and while some couples choose not to marry to avoid state interference in their relationship, many do not appreciate their legal position. Housing arrangements for children, financial provision on death or relationship breakdown are all matters that affect couples who live together as keenly as those who marry.

Other legal systems have found ways of dealing with the consequences of such relationships in their family law jurisdiction, yet there is no proposal to reform our law in this regard.

What then can be done by individual cohabitants who want to safeguard their position and agree on arrangements?

Cohabitation contracts in which couples could declare the terms upon which their relationship is based and provide agreed solutions should their relationship break down are widely used in other jurisdictions but may not be enforceable in our law. Although cohabitants can take steps to protect themselves in the event of death or relationship breakdown, as things stand it is wise to seek comprehensive legal advice.

It is important to make clear declarations as to ownership of property on purchase which can be flexible and provide for future contingencies, and to ensure that the implications of the arrangements are fully explained and understood. Wills are indispensable to cohabiting couples wishing to leave property to the other and it is vital to keep the situation under review.

Although the law is unclear about the enforceability of cohabitation contracts, any agreement of this nature is at the very least bound to be good evidence of a couple's intention at the time the contract was made. As such, it is a valuable exercise because it provides a good starting point in the event of any dispute. Cohabitants can pay a high price for failing to consider fully the implications of their relationship. This only adds to the distress already suffered by the loss of a loved one or by a relationship breakdown.

The author is a solicitor and lecturer in law at University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. She has just published *Living Together: A Guide to the Law* (Fountain Publishing: £24, incl. postage and packing).

A dressing-down for not dressing up

Judges have an infinite variety of ways in which to make the professional life of the advocate as difficult as possible. In 1983, the Californian Supreme Court ruled that it was wrong for a judge to respond to a submission from the district attorney by "poking him in the chest with his finger and telling him, 'buddy boy, you're not going to get away with this'."

In 1988, a judge of the US District Court was reprimanded for threatening to shoot a lawyer. A Californian judge was, in the same year, removed from office for a number of lapses from proper judicial standards, one of which was to tell an offensive joke to female lawyers who had the misfortune to be representing clients on an application before him.

One way in which the fussy judge may make a nuisance of himself is to focus on irrelevant questions of dress. A prime example was reported two weeks ago from the magistrates' court at Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan.

The chairman of the bench interrupted the sentencing of a defendant in a drink-drive case to order the defence solicitor, Mr Bill Loveluck-Edwards, to leave the court because his shoes were untidy. The solicitor had undone his laces because his new shoes were uncomfortable.

On his return to court, he understandably complained that the magistrate had treated him like a child.

Judges and lawyers concerned about sartorial standards (whether their own or those of others) should be aware that a considerable case law has developed in the United States on the extent to which courts may regulate the dress of advocates.

In 1976, the Supreme Court of Florida held, by a majority of four to three, that it had no jurisdiction to consider an attorney's complaint about a lower court sentencing him to three days in jail for his refusal to wear a tie in court.

Justice England, dissenting, pointed out that the advocate's "personal appearance and attire, which included a suit, clean and pressed shirt, and a hanging gold medallion, were otherwise neat, attractive and proper". He wisely rejected "any inference that respect for the judicial system is dependent upon male attorneys wearing neckties".

The District Court of Appeal of California rejected an optimistic appeal against a criminal conviction in 1964. The defendant complained that on the first morning of the trial, the judge had ordered the female defence counsel to remove her hat while in court.

In 1969, the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, quashed the order of a judge prohibiting a female attorney from taking part in a case before him until she wore

"suitable, conventional and appropriate" clothes. He was offended by the fact that she was wearing a dress the hemline of which was five inches above her knee.

Justice Del Vecchio, dissenting, took a more conservative view. He was concerned that the dress "revealed substantially more of the human frame than is customarily displayed in a courtroom".

During an extraordinary case in 1984, that could only have occurred in California, a judge prohibited an advocate from appearing in his courtroom wearing a turban when there appeared to be no religious or other legitimate reason for such attire. The attorney declined to say why he wished to wear the turban.

Associate Justice Butler, for the Court of Appeal of California, delivered a grandiloquent opinion that "to require a lawyer to disclose religious beliefs as a condition to appear before a judge returns us to those troubled times our ancestors fled in their search for freedom from religious oppression".

The appeal court ordered that the lower court give a right of audience to the advocate "unless the court can establish through proper procedure that the turban interferes with or disrupts justice".

An advocate is unfortunate if the judge focuses on his shoelaces. Judicial irritation is more usually directed at lay people. Earlier this month, a crown court judge in Newcastle upon Tyne was angered by a noisy display of pleasure from the public gallery after a jury acquitted a defendant on a charge of wounding.

The judge ordered 13 members of the public to be detained in prison for the night. One of those so imprisoned later complained that he had not even been in the public gallery at the time. The acquitted defendant sadly explained that he "was released only to see my friends jailed for cheering the verdict. I was hoping to celebrate with my friends, but they were all locked up".

Perhaps the crown court judge had taken seriously one of A. P. Herbert's *Misleading Cases* where there is a footnote reference to "Marable v Rowntree, where the jury, on being discharged, sang 'For he's a jolly good fellow', and were committed for contempt".

Possibly the Bridgend magistrate in the shoelaces case had misunderstood John Mortimer's story in which Rumpole's cross-examination of a witness is interrupted by him being passed a message from Mr Justice Presticord: "Your bands are falling down and showing your collar stud." As Rumpole curses to himself: "What was this, a murder trial or a bloody fashion parade?"

The author is a practising Queen's Counsel and a fellow of all Souls College, Oxford. His book, *Advocates* (Oxford University Press, £15), is published on Thursday.



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INNS AND OUTS

The French keep quiet

ON THE surface at least, relations between French and English lawyers remain cordial. The colloquium of the Franco-British Lawyers' Society will take place in Paris on May 16 and 17. The programme will cover the use of judicial experts, succession law, pension funds and securities law - but not the controversial French law which in part sets out to restrict the activities of British lawyers in Paris. But then, French lawyers have always been happy to discuss French law with the British, so long as they do not try to practise it.

Mortgage mate

HARD times can prompt innovations. Hamlin Slowe, the West End solicitors, has developed a computer program, a "mortgage recovery service" to help mortgage lenders as part of its secured lending group. The service features a computer link between clients and the firm. Clients now have access to the firm's files and can check the status of cases at any time - to see, for instance, which are outstanding, whether summonses have

How do you spell repossession?



been issued, hearing dates set, possession orders made, warrants issued or eviction dates set.

Dished

ONCE upon a time, house deeds used to contain conditions that the property was not to be used as a brothel or as a tripe-dresser's shop. Now Rees Jones Developments, a Welsh building firm, has banned satellite dishes on houses it sells. Apparently, if asked nicely, Rees Jones will issue a special dispensation in appropriate cases to allow residents to put up a satellite dish in an unobtrusive position at the back or on the side of the house. As yet, no owner has been desperate enough to put a dish on the front. Could a test case be brewing for a cricket fan?

SCRIVENOR

Unhealthy state of affairs

DISASTERS in which people have died in the course of their employment will give fresh impetus to a growing argument about workplace health and safety responsibilities in the United Kingdom.

At the heart of the debate lies a widespread feeling that workplace deaths are treated too lightly by the authorities and that those responsible for systems of work and working conditions, particularly directors and senior managers, should be held more accountable when systems go wrong. Relatives are often confused by the overlapping enquiries and jurisdictions. First, there is the inquest, which aims to ascertain the identities of the deceased, how his or her death occurred and its cause. If several deaths are linked to the same incident, there may also be a separate independent enquiry.

Neither an inquest nor independent inquiry can determine questions of criminal liability. If criminal charges are brought, they are determined separately. The question of civil liability and any obligation to compensate relatives by the payment of damages is determined in yet a fourth separate forum. Though evidence that emerges in one court or enquiry can be useful material on which to base judgments in a separate court, the overlapping jurisdiction is

When workplace accidents lead to inquests

often criticised as being unnecessarily wasteful of time and resources.

Inquest juries are specifically precluded from including in their verdicts any apportionment of civil liability for deaths; the nearest they can come to apportioning criminal responsibility is to return a verdict of "unlawful killing". In recent years, juries have shown a willingness to consider such verdicts rather than "accidental death" or "misadventure".

It is implicit in a verdict of unlawful killing that a crime has been committed, and concerning a workplace death the crime is most likely to be manslaughter. The fact of an unlawful killing verdict, while guaranteeing a police criminal investigation, does not necessarily mean that charges will follow. That may leave employers with the implication that their employee died because of a serious criminal act - but without a criminal trial they have no opportunity to clear their name effectively.

Yet individuals have occasionally been successfully prosecuted for manslaughter because of workplace deaths. It is

not so clear whether a company itself can be guilty of corporate manslaughter, although most lawyers believe that it is possible.

Many observers consider there is an overwhelming case for reform of judicial and quasi-judicial procedures into workplace deaths. One possible solution would be to expand the powers of the Independent Judicial Enquiry so as to enable the enquiry to adjudicate on matters of criminal and civil liability, to apportion blame, pass sentence and award damages.

Such a move would immediately render any further criminal or civil proceedings unnecessary and since there would be little more that could be achieved by a coroner's inquest, could also eliminate the need for inquests.

Many people believe that the main aim of any judicial enquiry must be to examine the facts so the incident is not repeated and that this is best achieved by encouraging witnesses to be entirely frank in their evidence. Effectively superimposing a trial on the proceedings of an inquiry would, they claim, inevitably add an adversarial approach to the proceedings.

GARETH WATKINS
The writer is a solicitor with Nabarro Nathanson

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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report April 21 1992

Queen's Bench Division

Private prosecution legitimate

Damages not cut by pension

Regina v Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte South Coast Shipping Company and Others
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment April 13]

The fact that the public prosecuting authorities had instituted proceedings for a minor offence arising from an incident did not preclude a private prosecution being brought for a serious offence arising out of the same incident where there was evidence suggesting culpability.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when refusing the application of South Coast Shipping Co Ltd, Robert Samuel, Peter Malcolm Butcher, Frederic Darwell and George Greenwood to have their commitment by Sir David Hopkins, Bow Street Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, for trial in a private prosecution brought by Mr Ivor Clogg, the husband of a victim in the sinking of a Thames pleasure boat.

charges would be brought.

On October 30, 1990 an application to the Divisional Court challenging the DPP's decision failed. The master was tried on two occasions on both of which the jury failed to reach a verdict and he was discharged.

Whether Parliament could have intended to exclude the possibility of the bringing of a private prosecution in such circumstances depended on sections 3 and 6 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

In section 3, subsections (2)(b), (c) and (d) provided for the circumstances in which the DPP would take over a prosecution while section 3(2)(b) provided for

him to institute proceedings.

The difference of language was not accidental but was crucial, especially when one came to section 6. Section 6(1) had the effect of precluding a person from bringing a private prosecution in certain cases but not in the circumstances covered by section 3(2)(b).

Mr Hill had argued that section 6 should be read as being subject to an implied limitation where a prosecution of some kind had already taken place.

His Lordship could see no reason for implying such a limitation. It was clearly intended to cover section 3(2)(b) cases where the DPP might institute proceedings.

ings. Section 6(2) therefore contemplated the DPP taking over proceedings which he might have instituted himself. He might then decide to discontinue them as being contrary to the public interest or, if it was too late for that course of action, then to offer no evidence.

When so read section 3(2) and section 6 made a consistent useful and effective framework to allow members of the public to pursue cases as a safeguard against tardy or inactive prosecuting authorities.

Mr Justice Waterhouse agreed. Solicitors: Hill Taylor Dickinson; Christian Fisher & Co.

Hopkins v Norcross plc
Before Mr David Latham, QC
[Judgment April 9]

Money received by way of pension arising out of a termination of employment was not to be set off against the damages to which the former employee was entitled where the termination of contract of employment was wrongful.

Mr David Latham, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in assessing damages to be awarded to the plaintiff, Mr John Edward Hopkins, for wrongful dismissal, against the defendants, Norcross plc.

Mr Stephen Auld for the plaintiff; Mr Philip Naughton, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the defendants.

computation of damages was the shortfall, if any, between the pension to which he would have been entitled had he continued to work his full contract period, and the pension that he was in fact receiving as a result of the reduced service.

There did not appear to have been any reported case on the issue but there was clear authority on the deductibility of a disability pension from damages for lost earning capacity in personal injury actions. In *Parry v Cleaver* [1970] AC 1 the House of Lords had held that a disability pension payable to a policeman was to be ignored in assessing financial loss by way of lost earning capacity.

In *Snaker v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority* [1991] 2 AC 502 an attempt was made to argue that *Parry* had been

wrongly decided or that it did not apply where the employer was the tortfeasor. Both arguments were rejected by the House of Lords.

From the cases, in damages for personal injury, no distinction was drawn between a disability pension and a retirement pension.

It seemed to his Lordship that, on the authorities, there was no room for a different approach to deductibility of a pension dependent upon whether the claim was in contract or in tort.

It would not be particularly satisfactory if the answer to the question of whether or not a pension was to be deducted depended upon the way in which the claim was formulated.

As a matter of law the pension payments received by the plaintiff

were not deductible from the figure which had been agreed as the damages for wrongful dismissal. Despite the fact that that gave the appearance of double recovery, it followed necessarily from the character of pension arrangements.

It also had the virtue of ensuring that the plaintiff was in the same position as he would have been in had he made his own separate pension provision.

In the absence of any express terms in an occupational pension provided by employers or in the contract of employment, it would seem to be illogical and unjust for there to be a different result merely because the pension was provided by the employer.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Slaughter & May.

Previous appeal relevant

North Wiltshire District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Michael Kerr
[Judgment April 15]

A previous appeal decision is distinguishable from the instant case must ordinarily be a material consideration to be taken into account by a planning inspector.

Failure to do so exposed the inspector's decision to challenge on the ground that it was not within his statutory powers.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Environment against a decision of Mr Lionel Read, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, to quash an inspector's decision

allowing an appeal by Mr and Mrs Keith Clover, the second respondents, against a refusal of planning permission for a dwelling house on land at Norton, Wiltshire.

Mr Timothy Snaker for North Wiltshire; Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state; the second respondents did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that when making his determination an inspector was obliged to have regard to matters including "other material considerations".

Previous decisions were capable of being material because like cases should be decided in a like manner so that there was consistency in the appellate process, although an inspector must always exercise his own judgment.

A practical test for the inspector was to ask himself whether if he decided the case in a particular way he was necessarily agreeing or disagreeing with some critical aspect in the decision in the previous case.

Where there was disagreement, the inspector had to weigh the previous decision and give his reasons for departing from it.

The materiality of the previous decision was apparent and the inspector had been made aware of it. The absence of any treatment of the previous decision in the inspector's decision substantially prejudiced the interests of the respondent council.

Lord Justice Purchas and Sir Michael Kerr agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr G. C. Betteridge, Chippenham; Treasury Solicitor.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the question was whether or not moneys received by way of pension arising out of a termination of employment were to be set off against the damages to which the former employee was entitled where the termination of contract of employment was wrongful.

The defendants said that sum was deductible for if the plaintiff had not been dismissed, he would have continued to earn his salary up to October 1, 1991. His only contractual entitlement was to that sum of money. Since he received precisely the same sum of money by way of pension which would not have been payable but for the termination, he had lost nothing.

The only relevance that his pension entitlement had to the

Prudence not relevant

Secretary of State for Social Security v Julien
Lack of financial prudence in entering into a mortgage agreement was not a relevant factor in a claim for income support in respect of mortgage payments, nor was the amount that could be claimed subject to a ceiling, under paragraph 10(6) of the Income Support General Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967).

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Michael Kerr) so stated on April 2 in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Social Security against the decision of Mr Commissioner Johnson who had allowed an

appeal by Mr Peter Julien against the dismissal by a social security tribunal of his appeal against a decision of an adjudication officer that his housing costs, for the purpose of calculating income support, were restricted to £145.85 a week.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that Mr Julien, an interior designer, purchased a property in Hampstead in July 1989 for £700,000, which included a mortgage of £630,000. Then, he had a contract yielding £12,000 a month for ten months and another yielding £50,000 plus others. They were later dishonoured and his business collapsed. Payments under the

mortgage amounted to £1,753.71 a week.

His Lordship said that paragraph 10(6) showed that it was ability at the time of entry that was material. The tribunal had looked to prudence not ability; and the commissioner had been correct to set aside his decision.

In deciding that Mr Julien had the ability at the material time, the commissioner had made a finding of fact which, on the evidence before him, was not open to challenge. The sum involved was spectacular but the same rules applied to Mr Julien as to those with more modest mortgages, for the regulations contained no ceiling upon the amount of relevant commitment.

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Test match report, page 34

McManus keeps young players in ascendancy

Miandad to lead Pakistan on tour

CRICKET

Maynard's elevation is a snub to Morris

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Bulgarians fail second drugs test

The six lifters include Petar Stefanov, the 1989 world champion in the 110kg category, and Plamen Bratoychev, the 1989 world champion at 82kg. (Reuters)

**Hooper aiming
to come back
at Headingley**

He has broken the fourth finger on his right hand, an injury that ruled him out of the Test against South Africa in Bridgetown.

Hooper is aiming to play against Yorkshire at Headingley in the Benson and Hedges Cup on April 30.

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		YORKSHIRE	625

Lead-up to FA Cup final

Wednesday plan a sensational end to the season

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C Wood, R Nilsson, P King, C Palmer, N Pearson, P Wharhurst, D Wilson, J Sheridan (sub: J Harries), D Johnson (sub: T Francis), P Williams, N Worthington.
NORWICH CITY: M Waters, M Bowen, C Woodhouse, P Blades, J Pollard, J Gore, R Fox, R Fleck, R Newman, D Beedford (sub: L Power), A Johnson.
Referee: J Worrall.

Papin ready to say his goodbyes

In the Dutch league, two goals each from Vanenburg and Kleij inspired PSV Eindhoven's 5-0 win over RKC Waalwijk that preserved their lead at the top.

Goals were the order of the day in Spain as Real Madrid told Barcelona "anything you can do, we can do better". First Barcelona beat Albacete 7-1, promising intense

Real, who played Espanol 24 hours later, responded by winning their game 7-0. Gheorghe Hagi, Real's Romanian midfielder player, said afterwards: "It's true that Barcelona's result influenced us a bit. We came out in the mood to score lots of goals." Real remain ahead in the

Barclays League			Second division			Third division			Fourth division			GM Vauxhall Conference		
ARSENAL			BIRMINGHAM			BOLTON			BURNLEY			ALTRINGHAM		
1	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	1
2	5	2	2	5	2	2	5	2	2	5	2	2	5	2
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4	7	4	4	7	4	4	7	4	4	7	4	4	7	4
5	8	5	5	8	5	5	8	5	5	8	5	5	8	5
6	9	6	6	9	6	6	9	6	6	9	6	6	9	6
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34	37	34	34	37	34	34	37	34	34	37	34	34	37	34
35	38	35	35	38	35	35	38							

Play the numbers game

IF EVERYTHING else has failed, you have nothing to lose by playing the numbers game. Coupon numbers 23, 31, 33 and 34 have proved lucky for treble chance punters this year and there is every chance that they will reap more dividends on the penultimate Saturday of the English football season.

Match No. 8 features the second division fixture between Barnet and Wolverhampton Wanderers, two of the most inconsistent sides in the League. A draw looks the safest bet.

Match No. 23 sees Exeter City play Hull City. Neither has set the third division

alight, but Hull are tipped to collect a point in their fight against relegation.

Match No. 31, Lincoln City (match No. 31), Mansfield Town (No. 33) and Scarsborough (No. 34) are also worth a cross on your coupon in a week in which the fourth division looks like producing the most draws.

Other lucky coupon numbers are 13, 35 and 44. The unlucky numbers for draws are 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 29, 33, 43, 45, 55 and 57. However, I am taking match No. 21, Bradford City v Stockport County, to end its treble chance jinx.

Saturday, April 25 unless stated	THIRD DIVISION	SCOTTISH PREMIER
FIRST DIVISION	1 Birmingham v Shrewsbury	1 Aberdeen v Falkirk
2 Chelsea v Arsenal	2 Bolton Wm v Reading	1 Celtic v Durnham
3 Coventry v West Ham	3 Burnley v Stockport	1 Hearts v Airdrie
4 Luton v Aston Villa	4 Burnley v Darlington	1 Johnstone v Albion
5 Bolton v Walsley	5 Exeter v Hull	1 Kilmarnock v Motherwell
6 North W v QPR	6 Exeter v Mansfield	2 St Mirren v Dundee Utd
7 Tottenham v Everton	7 Exeter v Chester	
	8 Swansea v N'field	
	9 West Brom v Preston	
	Not on coupons: Brentford v Fulham (Sunday); Reading v Hartlepool (Friday)	Not on coupons: Motherwell v Rangers
Not on coupons: Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wednesday; Liverpool v Manchester United (Sun- day); Manchester City vs. County; Sheffield United v Leeds (Sunday)	FOURTH DIVISION	SCOTTISH FIRST
	1 Barnet v Watall	1 Ayr v Morton
	2 Blackpool v North'pton	2 Hamilton v Partick
	3 Blackpool v Gillingham	3 Hamilton v Carmarock
	4 Halifax v Lincoln	1 Partick v Meadow'ht
	5 Hereford v Scunthorpe	1 Raith v Clydebank

SECOND DANCE 1 Darnley vs Wolva 2 Blackburn vs Milne 3 Brighton vs Brierley 4 Bristol C vs Derby 5 Burnley vs Upton 6 Coleray vs Walsall 7 Kidderminster vs Bristol R 8 Newcastle vs Plymouth 9 Oxford vs Ipswich 10 Southend vs Tranmere 11 Swindon vs Plymouth 12 Not on coupon 13 Charlton vs Luton		12 Stirling vs Morton 13 Ayr vs East Fife 14 Arbroath vs Queen's Park 15 Cowdenho vs Perth 16 Fife vs Clyde 17 Stirling Albion vs Dundee 18 Stirling Albion 19 Not on coupon 20 Berwick vs Arbroath	
WFS LEAGUE LODE PREMIER DIVISION 1 Aston vs Nottm 2 Charlton vs Sheff Wed 3 Droylsden vs B. Auckland 4 Fleetwood vs Exeter 5 Gillingham vs Bangor 6 Melfort vs Morristown		SCOTTISH SECOND 1 Ayr vs East Fife 2 Arbroath vs Queen's Park 3 Cowdenho vs Perth 4 Fife vs Clyde 5 Stirling Albion vs Dundee 6 Stirling Albion 7 Not on coupon 8 Berwick vs Arbroath	
TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Burnley, Newcastle, Bradford City, Exeter, Wrexham, Ipswich, Swindon, Southampton, Fleetwood, B. Johnson, Huddersfield, H. A.		Burn, Cambridge, Swindon, Birmingham, Burnley, Accrington, Celtic, Dundee, Peterborough, Shrewsbury.	
BEST DRAWS: Burnley, Bradford City, Newcastle, Fleetwood, Huddersfield.		FIXED ODDS: Home: Coventry, Birmingham, Burnley, Celtic, Dundee, Ayr, Wrexham, Swindon, Southampton, Exeter, Burnley, Bradford City, Fleetwood.	
AWAYS: Arsenal, Wimbledon, Standard, Watford, Tottenham.		V. Vince Winton	
HOMES: Coventry, Tottenham.			

Stoke a to step

Burnley re

Change of opponent for Eubank

Harris Eubank will defend the WBO super-middle-weight title against a third-place opponent, John Johnson — at Manchester's Garden Centre on Saturday. Jarvis ranked seventh by the WBO replaces a fellow-American, Ron Esseen, who is an ear infection. Eubank's original opponent, Carlos Gimenez, pulled out with a hand injury. Jarvis is training for his fight, said "My opponent is perfect and I won't be better and I don't like this is the chance I have been waiting

Mickey Duff, Frank Bratt's promoter, is to ask the WBA's Boxing Board of Control to appoint two judges for Eubank's bout with Jose Benito at Wembley.

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

Manchester United's failure allows Wilkinson's team to regain leadership

Leeds revitalise League challenge

Leeds United..... 2
Coventry City..... 0

By Ian Ross

THE prospect of Leeds United returning the League championship to West Yorkshire for the first time in 18 years — a rather fanciful prospect in recent weeks — was given far greater substance yesterday.

Fifteen minutes after learning of Manchester United's defeat by Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford, Leeds produced a solid, if unspectacular performance to defeat Coventry City, but for once it was the result, and not its manner, which was of such immense importance.

While this victory was sufficient to return Leeds to the top of the first division, it will have done little or nothing to alter Howard Wilkinson's assertion that one of the most intriguing championship races in memory will remain unresolved until the final day of the season.

Manchester United, who trail Leeds by a single point, must win against West Ham United at Upton Park tomorrow night if they are to reclaim the leadership and, more important, the initiative.

Rather sensibly, Leeds played out the opening 15 minutes at pedestrian pace. Once the pattern of their pressure punctuated by spirited, if somewhat rare, Coventry counter-attacks had been established, a surprisingly fluent game began to unfold.

After a succession of promising assaults had come to grief on the perimeter of the Coventry penalty area, McAllister and Wallace attempted to engineer a decisive opening by utilising brute force, driving in firm shots which were only fractionally wide of their intended target.

Wallace, whose form has been, at best, erratic since the turn of the year, was to enjoy the best opportunity of the first half when Batty's delightful pass drifted over the Coventry defence in the 32nd minute.

Unfortunately, as Wallace attempted to apply a finishing touch, the ball became



Wright to reply: the Arsenal forward bundles the ball past Hooper in his side's 4-0 win over Liverpool yesterday. Report, page 32

lugged beneath his right boot and he was unable to control before a defender intervened.

Although the Leeds goal had been subjected to only minimal pressure, Coventry were a little unfortunate not to take advantage of a defensive blunder shortly after the interval when Whyte and Lukic collided as they sought to intercept a pass which had been lofted from deep within the Coventry half.

Gallagher, who collected the rebound, was not really in a position to shoot but with no support available to him, he had no alternative. The ball, to Leeds' relief, cannoned into the chest of Whyte and was cleared.

Whyte was to make a more orthodox, and important, contribution in the 53rd minute when he applied the crucial touch in the move which was, in effect, to decide the outcome.

Sterland's free kick was of no greater menace than those he had been delivering all evening until Ogrizovic hesitated as he made his move to

collect. Whyte flicked the ball further into the penalty area and after Borrowes had sliced the ball into the air, Fairclough rose unchallenged to score with a simple header.

The game was settled in the 81st minute when Leeds were given a penalty which initially appeared to be controversial until television replays confirmed the award to be justified.

Cantona, following up after Ogrizovic dived down to his left to deny Speed, swept in a low shot which McGrath, standing on the goal line, blocked with an outstretched hand. After consulting a linesman, the referee, Robert Nixon, awarded a penalty, which McAllister duly converted, and dismissed McGrath for his action.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic, J. Newman, A. Dango, D. Batty, C. Fairclough, C. Whyte, G. Gallagher, G. Speed, E. Sterland, G. Wright, G. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed.

COVENTRY CITY: S. Ogrizovic, B. Borrowes, K. Sansom, S. Robson, A. Pearson, P. Albion, S. Parris, M. Gynn, P. Furlong, G. Gallagher, L. McGrath, R. Nixon.

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At Eland Road. Att: 25,582. Ref: R. Nixon

HT: 0-0. LEEDS UTD 2 COVENTRY 0

Scorers: Fairclough 53, McAllister (pen) 81

Sent off: Cantona 75 (Wallace), Stuart 83 (Strachen)

Goalkeepers: McAllister 81, Robson 42, Ndlovu 73 (Furlong), Emerson 84 (Gallagher)

Shots (on target/total): Leeds 12/22, Coventry 6/15

LEEDS UTD (4-4-2): J. Lukic, J. Newman, A. Dango, D. Batty, C. Fairclough, C. Whyte, G. Gallagher, G. Speed, E. Sterland, G. Wright, G. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrizovic, B. Borrowes, K. Sansom, S. Robson, A. Pearson, P. Albion, S. Parris, M. Gynn, P. Furlong, G. Gallagher, L. McGrath, R. Nixon.

The Leeds attack outlasted its Coventry counterparts, who managed just two chances on target and one corner to the home side's seven and nine corners.

The duel between Chapman and Pearson was one of the highlights, in addition to Strachen's classy service — 16 crosses in all. Compiled by Julian Deabourgh

Hudson gives South Africa the advantage

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ANDREW Hudson finished with 163 against West Indies as South Africa gained a first-innings lead of 83 here yesterday on the third day of the Test match, which was again boycotted by local people. South Africa were dismissed for 345 shortly after lunch.

Hudson was seventh out at 311, completely beaten by the pace of a yorker from Benjamin which ripped his off stump out of the ground. He batted for eight hours and 40 minutes and hit 20 fours, mostly drives or leg-side hits, and faced 384 balls. Apart from chances on Sunday at 22 and 66, he avoided serious error in a remarkable display for a batsman still relatively new to international pressure.

Hudson, aged 26, recently obtained a business and economics degree at Natal University and hopes to combine cricket with a career in marketing. Six years ago he had a season with Bradley Hills in the Huddersfield league. He has become a devout Christian. Asked about his batting in this game, he said: "If you want me to say anything about this innings I know whom to thank," and he pointed towards the sky. "My faith gives me strength of mind and peace and I can accept it whether I get a duck or a hundred."

It took West Indies an hour before they separated Hudson and Kuiper when South Africa resumed at 254 for four. Patterson made the breakthrough when Kuiper, on the back foot, got a thin edge to the wicketkeeper. Kuiper only played in this match because it was felt his occasional bowling might be

needed if Pringle's rib cartilage problem recurred. He served South Africa nobly as he restrained his natural attacking instincts in a stay of three and a quarter hours and helped to add 92 in 52 overs.

When West Indies switched to Adams's left-arm spin, Richardson, the new batsman, soon lifted a catch to long-off. Ten minutes before lunch, Hudson's stalwart innings ended and, in the next over, Snell was unluckily run out. Pringle pulled Benjamin with ferocious force back towards the bowler, who deflected it into the stumps with Snell out of his ground. After the break, the South African tallenders hit out and Adams, who only played because Hooper was injured, finished with four wickets.

Some confusion during the first two days of the match about the ICC's 90-overs-a-day rule was clarified by Ramman Subba Row, the match referee, before play started. In the domestic Red Stripe Cup, the West Indies board allow as over to be deducted for each drinks break and also for every two wickets that fall.

Subba Row and Clyde Walcott, the West Indies board president, have now interpreted the regulation in a different way. In this Test, 90 overs must be bowled daily. The deduction for drinks and wicket-falls is only applied when calculating average over-rates to ascertain whether a side has incurred fines for bowling too slowly. This slightly ambiguous rule is expected to be tightened at the ICC meeting next July.

David Miller, page 31

Three are sent off

NEWCASTLE United took a huge step towards relegation to the third division yesterday (Peter Robinson writes). They inexplicably threw away any chance against Derby County with one of the most controversial, ill-disciplined displays in the League this season.

Newcastle had three players sent off by the referee, Brian Coddington, and their coach, Terry McDermott, dismissed from the touchline at the Baseball Ground. They lost 4-1 and fell to one of the three relegation places.

Their troubles began with-

in three minutes of a kick-off delayed for 15 minutes by a bomb scare. Kevin Brock appeared to handle a header on the goal line and was ordered off. Brian Kilcline was booked in the sixth minute before McDermott, after making remarks to a linesman, was dismissed.

Kevin Scott, the Newcastle captain, was next for a second bookable offence and Liam O'Brien joined the party in the 71st minute for dissent. His dismissal prompted an outbreak of trouble among Newcastle supporters.

Body blow to United's hopes

Manchester United..... 1
Nottingham Forest..... 2

By Stuart Jones FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN FRONT of the biggest League gate of the season, the title contenders were yesterday revealed to be impostors. Against a hotch-potch of a side featuring Nigel Clough as a central defender, Manchester United subsided to the second ignominious home defeat of their campaign.

The experience may not have been as humbling as on New Year's day, when they lost 4-1 to Queens Park Rangers, but the impact promises to be more significant. The next time they appear at Old Trafford will be on the closing, and potentially decisive, day.

Alex Ferguson has persistently claimed that the tide will be won away from the bumpy and rutted pitch on which United's rhythm has invariably been disrupted.

Yet, to be crowned as champions, they will probably have to triumph there over Tottenham Hotspur.

The occasion was supposed to have been an appropriate party to celebrate the end of United's empty quarter of a century, as well as the farewell appearance of Gary Lineker. The fixture, which is scheduled for May 2, but may be postponed 24 hours for the benefit of television, promises to create as tense a finale as at Anfield three years ago.

The frayed nerves of United's followers were stretched further when Nottingham Forest, resembling an experimental outfit, took the lead in the 32nd minute.

Nobody harried either Sheringham near a touchline nor Wan, when he accepted a return pass. He cut inside a token gesture of a tackle by Kanchelskis and struck a shot from the edge of the area, which Schmeichel allowed to run underneath his outstretched left arm.

Forest's unusual defence, had until then adequately

protected Crossley. Yet within three minutes he was beaten, when Blackmore's free kick was headed firmly back by Bruce for McClair to nod home his 24th League goal of the season from close range.

Apart from McClair, no one at United has been able consistently to apply finishing touches. Ferguson chose an attack led by Giggs instead of Hughes but the alteration did not solve the productivity problem.

In spite of the speed of Kanchelskis and Sharpe on the flanks, United failed genuinely to stretch Crossley

again until midway through the second half. Then the goalkeeper, overlooked for the Rainbow Cup final, deflected McClair with an acrobatic save which brought the crowd of 47,576 to its feet.

Soon many of them sank disconsolately back into their seats. A quick free kick taken by Keane caught United unaware. Sheringham's dummy cleared a convenient central path for Gemmell who promptly steered in the winner.

Forest, for whom Walker put on a flawless exhibition of defending, kept their composure even after Hughes had been brought on.

Tomorrow United play at West Ham, whose spirit may have been broken, and on Sunday they tackle Liverpool at Anfield.

MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Brown, C. Blackmore, D. Irwin, S. Bruce, M. Phillips, A. Kanchelskis, N. Webb (sub), M. Hughes, S. McClair, R. Giggs, L. Sharpe (sub), M. Drogan.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, B. Lacey, S. Williams, S. Walker, G. Cross, R. Keane, T. Olyson, S. Gerrard, N. Clough, E. Sheringham, I. Wan, R. Nelson, J. Key.

Driver killed in 100mph crash

By Stephen Slater

MARCEL Albers, one of the brightest young drivers in the British Formula Three motor racing championship, was killed in a 100mph crash at Thruxton, Hampshire, yesterday.

Albers, aged 24, from Rotterdam, was trapped in his Ralt car after it had somersaulted towards spectators and then hit an earth bank and safety fence.

The fence prevented the car, or large pieces of it, hurtling towards a crowd of several hundred on the bank at the Club Chicane, one of the most popular spectator points on the circuit. Although small pieces of debris caused cuts and bruises and some spectators were treated for shock, nobody was seriously injured.

The British Automobile Racing Club medical team fought trackside for over an hour to stabilise Albers's condition before transferring him to Salisbury Hospital.

Albers won the first race of the 1992 season and in this, the third round of the championship, he had battled for the lead with Gil de Ferran, of Brazil, early on. Albers had then dropped down the field and was fighting back at the end of the eighth lap when the accident occurred.

Breaking from a maximum speed of over 150mph down to 70 for the second-gear chicane, Albers's front wheel hit the tail of the car ahead and his car was catapulted over ten feet in the air into the bank. The race was stopped with de Ferran the winner, on positions at the previous lap. "This is a tragedy which effects us all," he said.

However, organisers decided that the rest of the meeting should continue. John Cleland's Vauxhall Cavalier won the Esso British touring car championship race.

Results, page 33

Lomas excels in singles silver-medal effort

By Richard Eaton



Lomas: improved

LISA Lomas became the first English table tennis player for a decade to reach the final of a European singles championship when she won a silver medal in Stuttgart yesterday.

Lomas, aged 24, who had saved three match points and survived a 20-minute argument during her match against Galina Melnik of Russia, on Sunday, yesterday played three Dutch opponents. Her clever chop and float defence only failed her at the final hurdle against Bettine Vrieskoop, a former champion, to whom she lost 21-10, 21-13, 21-17.

Earlier, Lomas, the Eng-

land No. 1, won 21-16, 21-12, 21-15 against the unseeded Gerdie Keen, who was unable to fathom the back spin and became bogged down with pushing. Then Lomas scored a magnificent 21-14, 21-7, 21-11 victory over Mirjam Hooman, the English Open champion, who tried slow top spin with occasional hits but made mistakes when she hit hard.

Vrieskoop, aged 30, from Leiden, retired after the 1988 Olympics but found it impossible to stay away. Yesterday, her mixture of consistent rolling top spin and drop shots drew Lomas in and broke up her cobweb of defence.

Vrieskoop had won the

championships ten years before, when, coincidentally, she beat another Englishwoman, Jill Hammersley-Parker. Hammersley-Parker, now the England coach, said: "Vrieskoop is the same brainy player as she was ten years ago, and probably the only difference is that she hits a bit harder now because of the glue they put under the bat rubber."

Both Hammersley-Parker and Lomas can be satisfied with their work. Lomas's improvement, signalled by wins this season over several high-class players and by successes in last week's team event against Daniella Guergelcheva, the reigning

champion, and Csilla Batorfi, the European No. 1, has mostly occurred since the English Table Tennis Association has found the extra money to help the leading women practise and compete more often. Hammersley-Parker has been moved to a full-time role and Lomas, among others, is showing the benefit.

Lomas, aged 24, is a better all-round player than when she won a bronze in the 1986 Europeans in Prague. In particular, she has learnt to mix her attacking rallies occasionally with a top-spin loop follow-up behind her serve and to counterattack fiercely on the backhand when she has

lured an opponent into putting the ball too high.

England's other hope, Chen Xinhua, the national champion, lost 21-11, 21-13, 21-12, in the quarter-finals to Jorg Rosskopf, of Germany, who went on to win a men's event which revealed the strength in depth of European table tennis. Jorgen Persson, the world champion, lost to Andrej Grubba, the 33-year-old former World Cup winner from Poland, and Jan-Ove Waldner, the former world champion, was beaten by Zoran Primorac, of Croatia.

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TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

SL

Please adjust your set of values

David Plowright, the former chairman of Granada TV, argues that quality television and hard-nosed economics can mix, if the ingredients are right

Once again politicians have shown that their interest in television is at its height during an election. While most people regard it as something to watch, most politicians think of it as something to appear on. Its power of persuasion suspends criticism of its costs, its levels of staffing, efficiency and structure. For the brief period of the campaign it is judged on its performance as an instrument of propaganda.

Naturally, television does not escape criticism from the party that loses. The winners are more charitable, so perhaps it is timely to try to persuade them of the need to correct a recent and deeply flawed piece of broadcasting legislation which is putting the industry at grave and unnecessary risk. The Broadcasting Act of 1990 is without friends even among those who conceived it, and while broadcasting does not rate as highly on the political agenda as the recession, taxation or the health service, it is a public service under threat and deserving of some debate.

The legitimate questions to explore are: what amounts of revenue from independent television companies should go to the government for access to the comparatively scarce resource of a broadcasting frequency; what amounts should be spent on a programme service that meets the requirement of programmes of range, quality and diversity, is predominantly British and regionally structured; how the interests of shareholders are reconciled with the other imperatives; and how does the BBC retain its position as the senior and most respected service in the world?

In the next few years, the greatest threat to broadcasting standards will be the limited finance available for British programme making. Money alone does not ensure quality, but it certainly helps. Add in the ingredients of creative flair, experience, commitment and a willingness to take risks and you have a formula that goes a long way towards creating a service of quality.

The economics of broadcasting have tended to dominate media debates since the Conservative government chose to deliver television to the market place. There is an understandable tendency to try to simplify the situation by presenting a picture of an industry divided into two camps — on the one hand hard-eyed businessmen more interested in balance sheets than creative achievement, and on the other dedicated producers committed to quality programming but guilty of wanton extravagance.

Like most stereotypes, this is wide of the mark and obscures rather than clarifies the underlying issues. There is much more at stake than personality clashes. It is closer to the truth to say that most of those involved in the management of

commercial television share the same objectives of delivering a decent service to viewers while making a reasonable profit for shareholders. Such arguments as there are focus on finding the right balance to meet these aims.

This is a problem of concern to broadcasting as a whole. Nobody, even the most eagle-eyed accountant, sets out with the deliberate intention of making television programmes of unacceptable quality. If they did so, they would soon prove to be a liability to their company, and their business judgment would be questioned.

Similarly, those who earn their living by making programmes are not incorrigible spendthrifts. Production finance is hard to come by these days and those who manage to lay their hands on some want to make it stretch as far as possible. The legitimate question to explore is how far it can be stretched before the programmes suffer.

As someone with a good deal of practical experience of television operations, I have never seen any natural link between quality programming and lax management, light-touch accountability or self-indulgent production methods. Granada always had a reputation



Grand Granada: (clockwise from above) Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes; the documentary *28 Up*; and Helen Mirren in *Prime Suspect*



for being a tightly run ship, as many programme makers will testify. That is how Granada succeeded in combining good-quality production over the years with industry leadership in profitability, and to emerge after more than three decades as the sole survivor from the original round of ITV franchises.

I have no doubt my colleagues in Granada will continue to strive for the highest standards, because it is their instinct to do so and it makes sound business sense.

The real causes of current stresses in the industry lie deeper in its history. Commercial television in Britain has never operated in accordance with standard business principles and its adjustment to them is painful. It has always had its own artificially created economic climate, stormy at times but on the

whole temperate. A straitjacket of regulations covering every aspect of its operations was devised by Parliament long before the service was born. The ITV companies did not choose the ITV system; they inherited it. The determination to keep finance and programming as far apart as possible led MPs and

regulators to order it along paths which ran counter to the most basic tenets of free market philosophy.

For example, it was never designed to be cost-effective. It was seen by the government of the day as a means of underpinning regionalism at a time when devolution was high on the political

agenda — as it is again today. That is why as many as 15 separate broadcasting companies were brought into existence to cover a territory as comparatively small as the United Kingdom.

A normal business would have thought in terms of a far more conservative approach of branch offices, not the autonomous regional headquarters which were established and became strong manifestations of the government's devolutionary policy.

Similarly, the legislation virtually ruled out competition. Once a company had won a franchise, it earned the exclusive right to such television advertising revenue as was available in its area. Because the service was paid for by advertisers, not by the public, ITV could rely for most of its life on the same sort of shelter from market-place economics that the BBC had available to it via the licence fee, provided it fulfilled strict public service programme responsibilities. All of this added to the sense of isolation from the real world. Such a system could clearly not

have an indefinite life. For one thing its sheer costliness was annoying to those who did not have a place within it. But there is no escaping the fact that it worked well for a remarkably long time. From the early 1950s to the late 1980s, Britain had a television service which, although not perfect, was acknowledged as a great deal better than most others in the world.

To ward against the dangers of complacency there was a requirement every ten years or so for companies to compete publicly for the renewal of their licences — and quite a number of them lost. A firm

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TOMORROW
John Mortimer on advocacy

Change, and its effect on the pocket

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the declining value of money

Money has been much on my mind this week. If you are in any doubt whether you should consider yourself middle-aged, take a sure rule from me. You may know with categorical certainty that you have descended to your place among the crustaceans of midlife when you catch yourself saying: "Thirty years ago, a man would have had to work for a month to pay for that". It has been that kind of week.

A youth from the village has taken to coming to this house at the weekend to clean my car. He charges £3 for the wash and 50p to muck out the interior — a job from which Hercules himself would have shrunk after my son and his mates have been in the car for an hour with their gums, chocolates, crisps, drinks, toys and vile delight in foul air. I give him the work on the same principle that I always give lifts to hitch-hikers if they have got enough brains to place themselves in a spot on the roadside where I can safely stop. The principle is that, having been in that spot myself, I will always give a hand to those I find

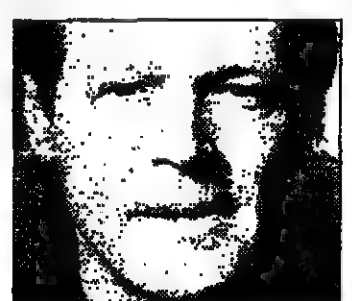
there today. When I was 17, I spent Saturday mornings making a grimy mess of the wings and panels of Morris Minors, Vauxhall Crestas and Singer Gazelles for five shillings a time.

After my youthful double had finished the job last weekend, he explained that he would want to come, in future, on Sunday mornings. On Saturdays, he is going to be working in Woolworth in the local market town. I was beside myself with pleasure: my doppelgänger had come to life. "My first holiday job was in Woolworth," I exclaimed. I thought I detected a minimal rolling of his eyes as he saw another hoar-laden anecdote approaching.

"I was 15," I said. "When the manager gave me the job, he said the pay would be £5 for a five and a half day week and I gaped aloud. 'Yes', he said sternly, 'it's a lot of money, isn't it; and you'll have to

work bloody hard to earn it.' "Five pounds a week," said the youth, obligingly. "Good heavens! I thought my pay was bad and they're paying me £2.75 an hour." He went off whistling with his bucket and my money. I retired to the kitchen to scratch my puzzled old head over a cup of coffee.

If he worked, as I did, a 55-hour week at Woolworth and they paid him £2.75 an hour, he would earn £151.25. That's 30 times the amount I was paid in 1961. Is this a true reflection of inflation and the decline in the value of money in the period? Or is a better guide to be drawn from the difference between the amounts we earned for car-washing? His £3 is 12 times my charge for the same job (I didn't offer an interior service: too much like hard work).



It seems possible, though I'd be grateful if we kept this to ourselves, that he is undercharging. Another possibility, far more comforting, is that I was overcharging for my services. His hourly rate at Woolworth is slightly unfavourable compared with the £3.50 he can earn in about three-quarters of an hour on

my car. My hourly rate at Woolworth was one shilling and nine old pence. By that measure, dear old Mrs Hamden should have been paying me, at most, two and six for the smears I left on the bonnet of her Morris Minor; and if she is still in this world to read these words, I imagine that she will be feeling, rightly, that she was skinned.

These calculations and comparisons may be head-spinning, confirming the uneasy feeling that we have been living through a Ruritanian era of unpot finance, but they include some degrees of measurable reality. If you want to lose all feeling for the value of money, try spending a week with a nine-year-old.

On a single day's excursion with my son last week we got through more than £70. In the morning, we

went bowling: three games, £13.20. We went for lunch in a fast-food dive: two small pizzas, two large soft drinks and a single serving of garlic bread, £15.25. We bought a pair of trainers, nothing flash: £24.99. We went to see *Hook*: £6 for the tickets and £2.50 for drinks and popcorn. Add parking, petrol, crisps and drinks at the bowling alley, sweets along the road and you've topped £70.

Thirty years ago, a labouring man would have to work for a month to earn £70. I would have had to work for three and a half months in my holiday job at Woolworth. My young doppelgänger would earn that amount in half a week. Even allowing for the effects of decimalisation and the Wilsonian deception of a depreciation which would make no difference to the pound in your purse, this colossal inflation must still be counted bewildering for those who

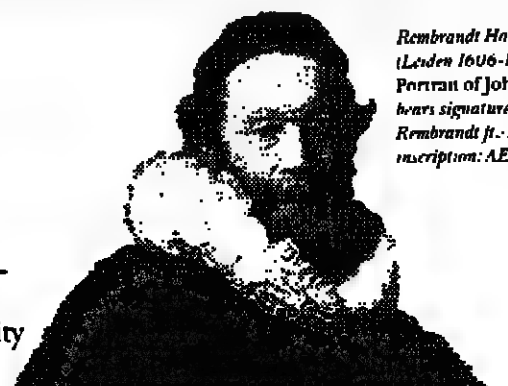
have lived through it. My son does seem able to retain some feelings of prudence in the face of this madness. "I don't like you to be spending all this money," he says, and means it. I don't like it either. The treats, I tell myself, are modest, the shoes essential. If I can't take my boy out for a day in his holidays and give him his idea of a good time, I tell myself, there is not much to be said for working at all.

I tell myself that I am doing nothing more than my own parents did for me when I was nine, though, we travelled by bus when we went to see *The Pyjama Game*, ate our lunch in the Odeon Cafeteria and dreamt not of bowling alleys and foot-high carousels of popcorn. None of these admonitions and reassurances from self to self provides much comfort. It still feels like a hell of a lot of money demanded by an insanely extortionate world; but that, I guess, is how it must feel to be middle-aged.

TOMORROW
Single Life: Lynne Truss

8th July, 1992
A unique opportunity to be with
Johannes Uytenbogaert

— when his portrait by Rembrandt will be sold by Sotheby's in London. Painted in 1633, it is an exceptionally fine example of Rembrandt's work — the modelling of the face and the contours of the white collar are wholly characteristic of the artist's style in the early 1630s — and its authenticity has been confirmed by the Rembrandt Research Project.



Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn
(L. 1606-1669 Amsterdam).
Portrait of Johannes Uytenbogaert,
bears signature and date:
Rembrandt f. 1633 and bears
inscription: AET: 76, oil on canvas.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 1st MAY
This Rembrandt portrait is one of the highlights of our sale of Old Master Paintings on 8th July that will feature many fine works, ranging from portraits to still lifes and landscapes. To include your pictures with Johannes Uytenbogaert, please contact Julien Stock on 071-408 5413 as soon as possible.

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Spain's reign was not so plain

LITERATURE

Mexico's premier writer, Carlos Fuentes, is a uniquely well informed guide to the consequences of Spanish empire-building in the Americas. He talks to Harry Eyres

When Carlos Fuentes said: "There are some writers who are wonderful to read but not much fun to have lunch with," he was referring to the great Spanish poet Luis Cernuda, (whom, like virtually every major literary figure of the mid-20th century onwards, Fuentes knew or knows personally). The second half of his statement is not applicable to himself.

Over lunch in a Bloomsbury restaurant, the 63-year-old, dapper Mexican novelist and man of letters produced a marvellously rich flow of table talk, erudite, wide-ranging, capable of startling connections: Mantegna's *Dead Christ* in the Brera reminds him of Che Guevara. His intellectual energy appears boundless. The name Fuentes, springs or fountains in Spanish, could hardly be more apt.

He was here to launch a book and a television series (BBC2, tomorrow night, entitled *The Buried Mirror*, which explores the special cultural relationship between Spain and the New World. In the Spanish-speaking world, the debate about the quinqucentenary of Columbus's discovery of the Americas has been polarised between rancorous regret and the sort of imperialist triumphalism once associated with General Franco.

The most extreme case of the former has been a Peruvian claim for Spain to repay the gold of the Incas and the silver gouged out of the mines of Potosí. There is also growing intolerance in Spain against South Americans, which Fuentes apprehensively links with the rise of neo-fascist xenophobia throughout Europe. He deplores

both tendencies. "The point is not self-castigation or celebration but a chance to reflect on what we have achieved in 500 years — descendants of Spaniards, Incas, Aztecs, black Africans."

Fuentes obviously delights in the incorrigible promiscuity of his own, Mexican culture, in which elements of Aztec, Toltec and Mayan civilisation have been suitably fused with the great legacy of European, Roman and native Hispanic civilisation brought by the Conquistadors. "I don't believe in pure cultures. We are all mongrels, we are what we are because of invasions: in our case Conquistadors, in yours Romans and Normans."

'I don't believe in pure cultures. We are all mongrels, we are what we are because of invasions'

Fuentes is particularly well placed to interpret this process to English-speaking Americans and the English. Coming from a country which is a kind of hinge between North and South America, he seems as happy speaking and writing English as Spanish: he was brought up partly in Washington DC (also in Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile) and as well as

serving as a diplomat in Paris he has taught in a string of North American universities.

A surprisingly large proportion of *The Buried Mirror*, however, is devoted to the culture of Spain, the Mother-country, or, as Cernuda called her, *la madrastra*, the unloving stepmother (territory treated fictionally in Fuentes's vast, labyrinthine novel about the time of Philip II, *Terra Nostra*). Fuentes is engaged in cultural reclamation, seeking out the neglected richness and value of Spanish civilisation, which has too often been written off as violent and destructive.

"I don't believe in the *Leyenda Negra*, the black legend of Spanish cruelty. It's a form of self-denial." Fuentes reminds us of Spain's singular ability to question the justness of its own acts of colonisation, the contributions of the Dominicans such as Father Montesinos who cried out in his sermon before Christmas 1511. "Are these not men? Have they not rational souls?" Later the Jesuit Father Vitoria, a founder of the modern concept of human rights, told the Pope he had no right to occupy Indian lands, but only to establish missions.

Even the optimistic Fuentes, however, is not disposed to deny that behind the noble ideals of the Spanish Law of the Indies, the reality of colonisation was "harsh and often inefficient exploitation of land and labour by local bosses". The nemesis of Spanish civilisation both at home and in America was the non-emergence of a strong civil society and the political institutions, culminating in democracy, to safeguard it. Even when the Latin



Carlos Fuentes: his latest book (also a BBC 2 series) explores the cultural and other legacies of Spain's American empire-building

American countries, almost in unison, threw off the Spanish yoke in the 1810s, the French-inspired revolutionary ideals of Bolívar remained abstract.

Fuentes has some optimism about Mexico, despite the economic crisis throughout Latin America, which has meant growing poverty for a decade. "The key is the development of civil society and

everywhere I see people organising themselves. When there was a terrible earthquake in Mexico in 1985 civil society acted much more quickly and effectively than the government."

Fuentes can hardly restrain his glee about the creeping Hispanicisation of the United States (a theme adumbrated in *The Old Gringo*, his novel about the disappearance

of the American journalist Ambrose Bierce in Mexico). "By some projections more than half the population of the USA will be Spanish-speaking by 2050. And the state of California has just declared that its language is English, which obviously proves the opposite."

But Fuentes is motivated less by cultural vengeance than by a

generous delight in the ever-rich possibilities offered by linguistic and cultural multiplicity. He says, "You can already see bumper stickers on cars in Texas which say 'Mono-lingualism is a curable disease.'"

● *The Buried Mirror*, a five-part series, begins on BBC 2 tomorrow night at 8pm. The book of the same name is published this week by Deutsch.

THEATRE

One text, two languages and a common purpose

London's Mermade Theatre, the stage proportions and actor-audience relationship are the same as those at the Acadie Theatre of the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. This information might seem like one of 1,000 Amazing Facts You Need Never Remember, but it has a bearing on the production of *The Chester Mystery Plays* opening at the Mermade tomorrow night.

One of the four cycles of biblical plays that survived from the Middle Ages (with the York, Coventry and Wakefield cycles), the Mermade performances are the fruit of an Anglo-Portuguese collaboration, in which players from the two countries act together in their own language. I was fortunate to see this improbable production at its Lisbon venue.

Jeremy Kingston previews an Anglo-Portuguese stage production coming to London from Lisbon this week

shortened text was translated and after a workshop last summer. *Os Mistérios de Chester* was born.

João Ananias, who plays an urgent, red-shirted Jesus, said, through an interpreter: "In Portugal, we are accustomed to working slowly. We sit at a table for a long time. The behaviour of the English actors is very focused, as if tomorrow is the opening day. Also, Portuguese directors tend to impose their ideas upon the actors. But Mark expects the actors to give out ideas, to know already what the character is." Dornford-May growled: "I can always make them change to what I want, later."

He and the unknown author of the Chester cycle have constructed between them a model of the universe in which God's mildly liberal attempts to improve existence regularly go amuck and must be paid for by killing something.

Medieval audiences did not receive theological subtleties

and this throws the interest upon Dornford-May's ideas for animating simple conflicts. Understandably, his most successful solutions are visual.

When Michael Thomas's soberly trusted God creates the angelic orders, nine angels in flared coats encircle the heavenly throne; the rope that links them is tugged away by the ambitious Lucifer until they tumble into a heap. The creation of the naked Adam and Eve is gracefully imagined; and Ana Bustorff's intense Mary encounters Gabriel not during her devotions, but while turning hay.

Everyday details add to the spectacular effects. Strong lighting from the front corners of the stage throw menacing shadows against the rear wall. Herod's soldiers stab at the snatched babes until a red powder bursts out. And whenever an evil councillor is required, Gordon Anderson's lizard-lipped Lucifer slithers into another character and God's plan goes wrong again.

The bilingual approach brings an unexpected gloss by reminding us that Christianity was designer-planned to speak to all nations. At the Mermade, *Os Mistérios* become *The Mystery Plays* once more and, though there are no orange trees fruiting in Blackfriars, audiences should still find food for thought.

● *The Mystery Plays, at the Mermade, Puddle Dock, London EC4 0J71-410 0000* from tomorrow.



Murderous monarch: Herod (Adam Blackwood) attacks a nursemaid (Nicola King) in the *Chester Mystery Plays*

RADIO REVIEW

Hear they come again

"Vissi d'arte", from *Tosca* — the singers' equivalent of "To be or not to be".

Two Saturdays ago, the last rugby match of the season (and the celebrations that followed) caused me to arrive home too late for the start of *Kaleidoscope* (Radio 4), and in no shape to make the most of what was left of it anyway. All I caught was the same, familiar and beautiful song being sung over and over again, and the impression that people were telling me to visit Auntie at Tesco. When the programme was repeated, last Friday night, I found out it was a survey of soprano and opera directors on the challenges of singing the aria

in which a critic compares different recordings of the same piece, this was among the best exercises in opera dissection I can recall. Thus it was with new confidence and a renewed ear that I settled down to Carmen in Claire Grove's production on Radio 4, on Easter Saturday night. At least I could singalong to this one, but wait — where was the music? And where, even on radio, were the fancy uniforms and flailing fans?

Perverse, I call it. We all know Carmen is an opera — or rather we all know Carmen as an opera, but in this two-part classic serial we have a rare

chance to hear Prosper Mérimée's original prose story, astutely transposed by Stephen Jeffreys from the 19th century to 1936, with Spain in the grip of civil war and Carmen (Adjoa Andoh) as a gypsy who will survive whether it means lifting her skirt for Franco's officers or flogging ammunition to the communists. José (Iain Glen), meanwhile, is a Basque with a Scottish accent who is so besotted by Carmen that at the end of episode one he wouldn't know his aria from a Bolero. I think we're going to enjoy this.

I thought I was going to enjoy *The Legend of Robin Hood* (Radio 4, Saturday,

more than I did. It seems like only a fortnight ago that the director, Nigel Bryant, was galloping us from Norman England, over to the Crusades and back in time for tiffin.

In fact it was only a fortnight ago, in a better-by-far piece called *Assassins*, the little-known tale of what became of Thomas à Becket's murderers. This tale is all-too well known, and while John Fletcher's script ranted on lyrically about the greenwood, the wicked Sheriff and the merry men of Sherwood, there was nothing John Nentles could do with the title role to prevent us poring to the punchlines before him.

"Who's this giant coming across the bridge, Tuck?" It's Little John, you idiot, and he's going to dump you in the river. Even Kevin Costner knows that.

PATRICK STODDART

Moving confidently onto another stage

DANCE IN OPERA

Choreographer Aletta Collins is co-directing Scottish Opera's new *Don Giovanni* with designer Tom Cairns. Nadine Meisner went to Glasgow to sit in on a still-unusual collaboration

After a hard day, Aletta Collins is viewing the world through extreme tiredness. Choreographing for opera, she says, is "mucky and horrible, like wading through mud. You put the cassette on and there are singers belting it out. And you think, 'What on earth am I supposed to do in the middle of this?'"

But for Scottish Opera's new production of *Don Giovanni* she has been co-director in her last three operas: *King Lear* for Opera North and the Flanders Opera, *La Bohème* for the Stuttgart Opera and now *Don Giovanni*. She obviously finds this more satisfying than simply slotting in her choreographic services. Although this *Don Giovanni* is not a "concept" production — the opera will be free to speak for itself — a designer-director-movement team clearly makes for a more homogeneous approach.

There has been no clear demarcation of responsibilities: Cairns has often directed movement; Collins has sometimes taken rehearsals. During the run-throughs Cairns's restless silhouette stands out in the auditorium, charging along a row of seats to check the stage picture from different angles. Or, with Collins, he bounds on to the stage, the pair of them hovering round the cast like solicitous parents or Bugaku puppeteers, adjusting limbs, pointing to destinations, or halting everything to demonstrate a walk or discuss motivation. Like dancers, opera singers "mark" their numbers, whispering their way through, so that early rehears-

als are concerned with the logistics of movement and drama.

With *Don Giovanni*, Collins has had her first experience of using not professional dancers, but only the singers: 20 choruses and eight soloists. Instead of creating the steps on them, using their bodies to mould the movement as she normally would, she spent one week in London choreographing on two professional dancers, arriving in Glasgow with everything ready.

"Because they don't come from a dance background, they are not interested, for example, in moving their hands ten different ways for you to decide which you like," she explains. "They just want you to tell them what to do and then they'll work their socks off to do it well. So I just started by describing what this dance is going to be."

"I said it's probably much too hard, but I'm going to teach it to you and the bits that really are too hard, we'll change. But they just did it. And wonderfully."

The chorus appreciated her methods. "She knew what she wanted right from the beginning," says one of its members, Stephen Hill. "Some choreographers use you to experiment with. You want to start learning from the first day of rehearsals, but you end up not learning until the last two days."

Where non-dancers have difficulty is in refining movement. "It's hard to get subtle

changes," Collins says. "If that's the movement, then that's it." It is not that they can't see or feel a slight variation, but they don't have the carefully attuned body awareness to understand how it can be achieved.

But there is one thing Collins loves about the chorus. "It's not that I don't miss the clarity and refinement of dance, but the chorus have a way of going for the stuff that I really like. There's a sense of energy and excitement and effort. It can be quite tricky to get a real dancer not to cover up effort. Yet sometimes you want it to show."

Stephen Hill enjoys the gestural emphasis of Collins's style. "She makes the dances look complicated and interesting by the use of arms rather than fancy footwork." In the ballroom minuet dance, the



Sollicitous: Aletta Collins rehearsing Scottish Opera

performers flutter their hands like fans and lick their fingers as though overheated and eating cream.

Collins explains: "It's night, the guests are hot and tired, they have walked miles to get there. Everybody's a bit too excited: everything goes a bit too far; it all turns into a nightmare." Not for her the museum-perfect recreation of a minuet: but she doesn't want to offer an obtrusive, self-conscious display, either.

She has been commissioned to do a second piece for London Contemporary Dance Theatre in January; and together with Cairns and Helen Cooper (translator for this *Don Giovanni*), she is trying to find funds for a collaborative dance project.

● *Don Giovanni* opens at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 332 9000) tomorrow at 7.15pm.

Loyalties torn by distant conflict

Jon Stock reports on the effect of civil war on the Serbs and Croats who live together in London



War bulletins: watching Belgrade TV in a London hotel

Tatjana, a 19-year-old woman from Slovenia, is still shocked by what happened to her two weeks ago. Sitting in a tiny bed in a flat in Shepherd's Bush, west London, she talks nervously. "I was singing at a local wine bar, just up the road from here. It is very popular with Serbians. Everyone was very drunk and I was about to sing 'What A Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. Instead, I decided to sing a traditional Slovenian folk song first. They hated it. I thought they would spit at me. It was terrible. I didn't expect that. Afterwards I was desperate. If it wasn't for my friends, I don't know what I would have done."

When civil war broke out last summer between Slovenia and Serbia, and then spread to Croatia, thousands of young people fled their homes to avoid the fighting. Many of them are now living in Britain, either illegally or having sought refugee status from the Home Office.

Tatjana hitchhiked across the Continent to Britain last October with her Slovenian friend, Judita. They live together, sharing their flat with three others, among them a Serb and a Macedonian.

London has had a large Serbian population since immediately after the second world war, during which King Peter II of Yugoslavia, a Serb, sought refuge in Britain. The Orthodox Serbian Church in Notting Hill estimates that there are 15,000 Serbs living in the capital. There are considerably fewer Croats (800 according to the Croatian Catholic Mission). Until recently, they have lived side by side in relative harmony in London. However, as the fighting in Yugoslavia intensifies, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Serbs, Croats and Muslims are engaged in an increasingly bloody war, relations in London have become strained.

On election night in London the founder of the Croatian Society, Count Louis Doimi de Lupis, invited a small group of

Croatians to his house off Launceston Place, London W8, to discuss the fighting in Bosnia. Many of his guests' home towns had been all but destroyed by relentless bombing.

"Last week we organised a charity concert for Croatia," the Count said. "There are many more Serbs living in London than Croats. We can only kill them culturally. We are never going to give up."

The assembled guests included academics, an estate agent, and Father Drago, a priest who runs the Croatian Catholic Mission in London. One mature student, Gordana Baranovic from Sibenik, was close friends with a Serb living in London. They had known each other since 1975, when Mrs Baranovic arrived in Britain. They fell out after the Serbian army subjected Sibenik to a particularly heavy bombardment.

"My sister phoned me," Mrs Baranovic said. "I could hear her crying, her baby was screaming. My father was asking if he could come and sleep on my floor here in London. I saw pictures on the news of our damaged cathedral. I saw my town in all the newspapers. My Serbian friend didn't ring me for a few days after that."

Then one day she rang me and asked how I was. She upset me by saying that the Serbian army would sort out all the mess. 'What mess?' I said. 'You started it.' It's very sad. I used to go along to the Serbian church with her. Our relationship was very close. She now describes me as her ex-friend, an extremist."

While Mrs Baranovic was recounting her story, a group of Serbs was gathering, around a television at the Hotel Rava Gora, on Holland Park Avenue in London, watching Belgrade TV on satellite. Radomir Jovic runs the hotel. "I have been living here for 20 years and I have met one Croat," he says. "She was a nice girl, but she wouldn't marry me because I am a Serb. In London, the war has divided us even more."

Tatjana shakes her head



Armed truce: Serbian territorial soldiers during a UN-negotiated ceasefire in January. Amongst the emigré population in London, the battle-lines are still drawn, however

when she hears that such views are being openly expressed. She points out that both Mrs Baranovic and Mr Jovic have been living here for a long time, and are of a different generation. The Serbs who heckled her at the wine bar were also older. For many young people escaping Yugoslavia, she explains, London is a place where they can live in peace together, a haven where they can regain their humanity.

She introduces me to Milan, a 20-year-old Serb who was living in Croatia. He was smuggled into Britain last October. "He was the most desperate man I have ever met," Tatjana says. "He had seen a lot of blood, and been asked to fight against friends. He was fighting against Slovenia, my country, but we are very close. We accept him here."

Last August, Milan was serving with the federal army, a predominantly Serbian force. He fought in a battle at Zagreb airport in Croatia, where his family still lives. After finishing his national service for the federal army, he was called up by the Croatian

defence force. His mother rang him last week to say the Croatian police are looking for him. His name and photo are in the local press.

"I didn't know who to fight any more," Milan says. "I am a Serb, but many of my friends are Croats. If I go back to Croatia, I will be sentenced to five years imprisonment. But I will probably be shot first by the people for not being there in a time of need."

Milan's friend, Zvonimir, is a deserter from the federal army, and lives in the same tiny bed. Five of them sit around, smoking when they can afford it and eating once a day. They have few possessions, and wear the same clothes every day. They are afraid to talk or have their photos taken.

Zvonimir is from Vojvodina, an autonomous part of Serbia. Before he was called up, he was training to be a journalist. "I had a great life in Yugoslavia. I am 24. I had my own house, a car. I always had enough money, my town was wealthy. Now I am here, I have nothing."

He arrived in Britain last August and lived on the streets for three months. He worked casually, until finally applying

'We can only kill them culturally. We are never going to give up'

for refugee status from the Home Office. After six months, he will be given a work permit. In the meantime, his rent is paid for by housing benefit and he receives £28 a week. "London is the one city in all the world where you can find a job just by going from shop to shop and asking. You can't do that anywhere else," he says.

"In Germany, for example, they ask for papers. Here no-

body asks you for anything."

Milan and Zvonimir both have many Croatian friends. Shepherd's Bush and the surrounding area, traditionally popular with Serbs, is filling up with Yugoslavians of all ethnic origins. Once he was convinced that I was not from the Home Office, Milan agreed to take me to a basement flat in Hamersmith to meet Ivan (not his real name), a Croatian friend. Ivan came

to Britain in 1990 and is living with Vlado, a Bosnian Serb. His visa has run out and he is hoping that the Home Office will let him stay.

Milan remains quiet, as Vlado and Ivan joke about killing each other. They say it is the only way they can cope with the war. Their relationship has, if anything, improved since their respective states started fighting each other.

"But you have to be careful," Ivan says. "Before, when you met anyone from Yugoslavia, you were happy and hugged them as a brother. Now you have to shut up, you don't know what they might do or

say. There are a lot of extremists in London now."

Last October, Croatia asked its citizens to return to defend their state. Ivan was tempted, but resisted. Now it is too late. If he goes back, he will be shot as a deserter, perhaps even by his friends, he says. "I rang my mother to ask her," he says. "She said 'If you come back, you will no longer be my son. You cannot stay at our house.' She knew that I would be killed."

Milan returns to his flat, where we all sit around, listening to a tape of Tatjana singing "What A Wonderful World".

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St George and the bull

In part of Russia
England's patron saint
inspires wild devotion

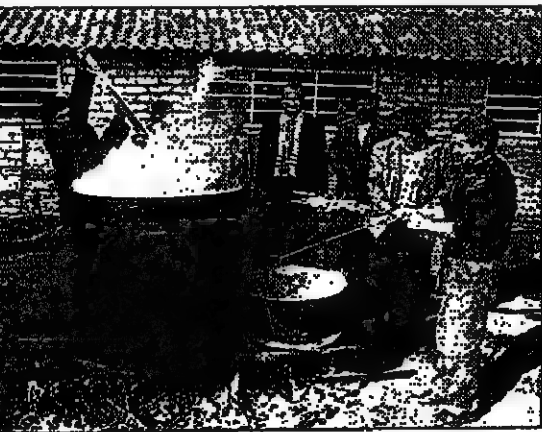
St George got around a bit. In life, according to the version reported by Metaphrastes, he was a rather grand Cappadocian soldier under Diocletian during the third century; he visited England, organised Christianity in Armenia, declared his faith to his leader and was tortured and put to death.

Since then, his relics have performed miracles in France, the Orthodox Eastern Church and Islam both honour him, he has been patron of Genoa, Venice, Portugal, Aragon and Germany as well as of England, the protector of the (Italian city of Ferrara and the avenger of women, a model of knightlyhood, a hero to the Crusaders. Calvin impugned his very existence.

In Valdivkavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, they disagree. North Ossetia is a tiny autonomous republic, population 643,000, near Georgia in the Russian Federation and according to Robert Chenciner, an ethnographer and a senior member of St Antony's College, Oxford, the North Ossetians are eclectic polytheist pagans whose favourite saint is St George. They call him Wasyrdzhy and instead of giving him a single feast day (as the English do on April 23), each November they celebrate him with a week of constant feasting.

Mr Chenciner was in Valdivkavkaz for the festival of Wasyrdzhy last year. He stayed with the Dsusev family in a modern suburb. Among the tower-blocks was a single-storey building, built five years ago by public subscription, for holding feasts. Inside, three long tables were being set and decorations were being hung for the celebrations.

Wasyrdzhy, Mr Chenciner says, is patron of men and of masculine activity, such as hunting and fighting. He is portrayed wearing a white burka (a hairy felt cloak with grotesquely wide shoulders) and riding on a three-legged white horse. Quite unlike his Western version, this



Party time: Valdivkavkaz residents boil an animal for their feast

George is considered dangerous to women, but this is quite logical when you consider the local personage with whom he became combined.

In North Ossetia he merged with a fellow from the Iranian Nart Epic. The Narts were giants, and Wasyrdzhy had a great passion for one of the female Narts. She would not have him, but his passion was unabated and after her death he "visited" her in her grave, and fathered on her Satana, one of the great Nart heroines.

Mr Chenciner went to market with the Dsusevs to buy animals to sacrifice to Wasyrdzhy. "If a family isn't well off, they'll buy a ram, which costs about £10," he says. "If they're rich, they buy a bull, for about £100. The feast goes on for a week, and it's rather like Christmas — you prepare your feast for one of the days, and on the others you go to your friends and relations. The women don't take part; they sit in the other room and get bored, and are brought a plate of food."

"There was a vast 300-litre pot on a welded steel trivet, bubbling away, with a

chopped up bull inside it. Next to it was a 50-litre vat with the intestines and choice innards. They kill the animal by tying it down by the horns and cutting its throat with a dagger, with singing and prayers for health, good fortune, and St George's help. They pray to the devil, too, just to make sure."

Mr Chenciner adds that it is very important when serving the meat to include the head. This is because of a terrible legend about some Nart prisoners who were served meat by their captors, and wanted to know what it was — it turned out, of course, to be boiled Nart. So hosts show the head so that guests know they are not being made into cannibals.

There is also a complicated ritual involving the right ear of the animal: it is cut off, cut in three vertically, then the three

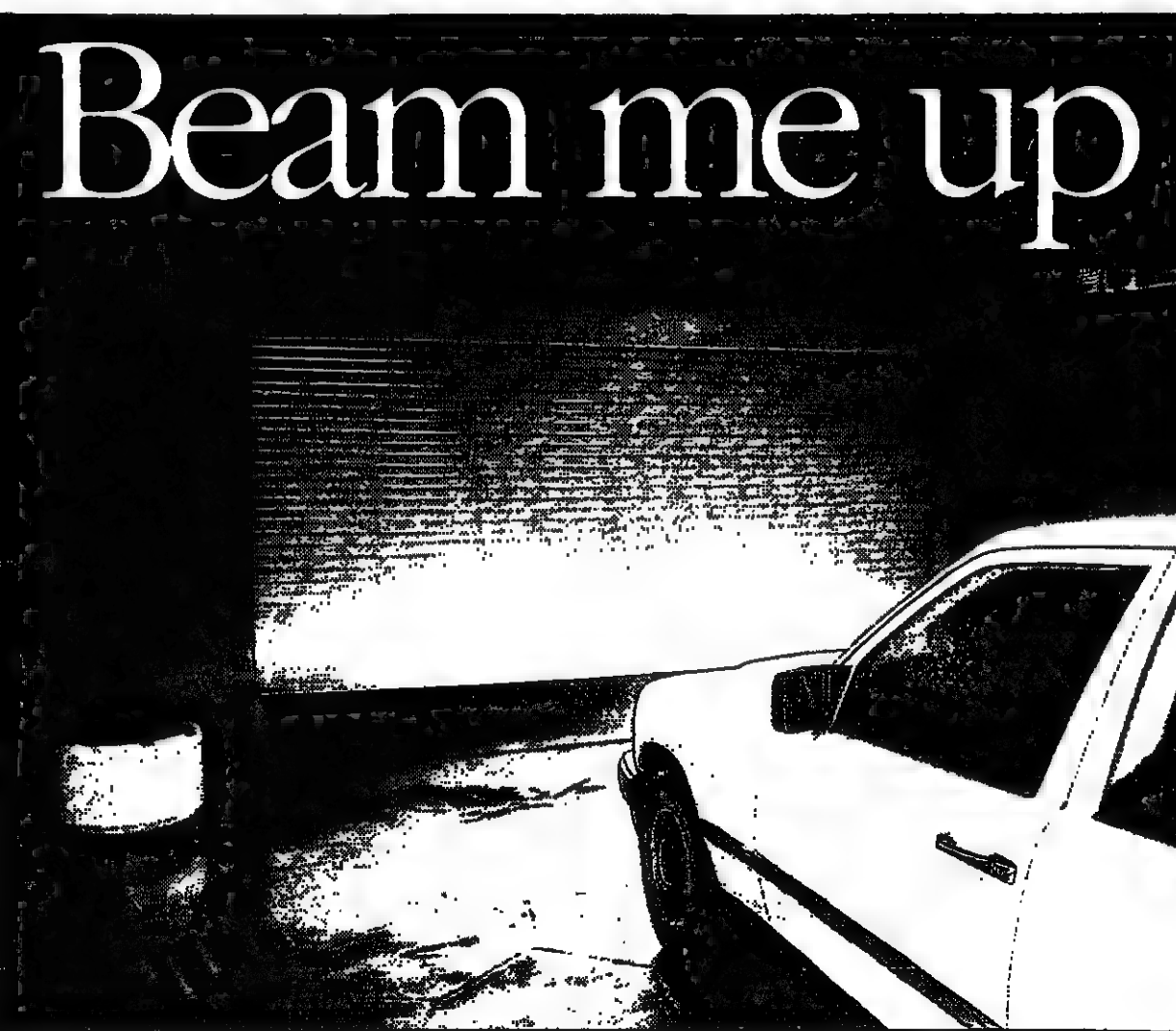
eldest men present balance a slice across a glass, which they raise in toast and pass to the three youngest, who pass back their glasses to the eldest. "Everyone drinks toasts, the gist of which is that the younger men should heed the elder, be wise in his head and strong in his neck, and then the younger men eat the slices of ear and knock back their drink," Mr Chenciner says. "I was the oldest youngest. The ear was sweet and crunchy."

Sunday is the culmination of celebrations, and hundreds of people drive to a twelfth-century church of St George in Dzgis for a blessing. Men and women queue up separately for blessings, and there is even male and female food: flat loaves with cheese inside are female, boiled meat on the bone is male.

At the church, Mr Chenciner noticed three modern pictures of St George on horseback, slaying the dragon. "There was a picture of Stalin, too," he says. "It's not much like Morris dancing, is it?"

LOUISA YOUNG

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'Fight for survival can be a fight for quality'

Continued from page 1

regulatory hand from the Independent Broadcasting Authority also kept them on their toes between crises.

What finally made the ending of the system inevitable was not the incongruity of its economics or dissatisfaction with its performance. It was the fact that new technologies, particularly satellite and cable, made watergate monopolies, of the kind ITV had enjoyed, unfeasible.

Competition in broadcasting was being introduced under its own impetus. The ITV companies were as aware of this as anybody. While they were quick to point out that there was no discernible public clamour for more television programmes, they accepted that new technologies made expansion and competition impossible to resist, argued for a sensible transition to be made and offered a blueprint for achieving it.

Sadly, the government opted for a route that was more certain than most to imperil programming — the lunacy of selling licences to the highest bidder.

There is no need to go over that ground again, but the results of the move are now coming into public view nine months before the new licences come into effect. ITV licence holders have bid ridiculously high or ludicrously low sums for the right to stay in business from the end of this year onwards.

The overall climate of uncertainty is such that few companies will want to be mainstream programme producers or will be able to afford to do so on any scale other than extremely small.

The incentives of tax concessions for programme spending and the need to seek renewal of the contract at regular intervals that were positive encouragements to programme experimentation and fair have gone. The new franchises are, in effect, open-ended as long as promises are kept and a reasonable standard of behaviour maintained.

Most of the leading companies will opt for the less-hazardous course of dismantling studio installations and relying on independent producers for the bulk of their production. What programmes they do make will inevitably be influenced by the need to reduce overheads.

The publisher-broadcaster approach — commissioning programmes rather than creating

them — is perfectly legitimate. Indeed, it was one of the options made available by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to those seeking a franchise.

However, the disappearance of major companies from direct production on anything like the familiar scale in turn raises problems. It presupposes that there is an independent production sector mature enough to offer a high volume of diverse programming capable of satisfying the demands of a market-led, rather than programme-led, schedule.

Furthermore, if regional companies reduce their in-house production to token levels, the regional structure of ITV — its most distinctive characteristic — will be fundamentally weakened.

Cuts in regional production to the minimum level of local news and features undermine the whole concept of regional centres of excellence on which ITV was built. London will remain the broadcast monopoly it took so much effort to break, and with it the monopoly of independent production.

The ITV companies collectively are committed to producing a network schedule costing nearly £500 million in 1993. This is an inescapable obligation which has to be met. The ITC has made clear its intention to hold licensees to the programme promises they made in their franchise applications. Any business plan which fails to take account of this is built on sand.

The question for ITV companies is not whether they carry out their commitments, but how; and the question for the ITC is how to react if the companies collectively say they cannot afford a high-cost network schedule and seek to take advantage of the increased allowances — from 15 per cent to 35 per cent of hours broadcast — of cheap American programmes.

Finding satisfactory answers will require collaboration between every sector of the industry. In particular, the regulatory barriers which prevent ITV companies combining in stronger, more viable units — a relic of the artificial world we are now leaving — need to be removed.

Already there is evidence of joint advertising sales and joint use of facilities, and not just between ITV companies: the BBC also has an interest in cost savings that allow a concentration of resources on programmes.

The ITV system, facing full-blooded competition for the first time, cannot sustain the 15 separate companies which managed to stay in business while the original monopoly lasted. Those companies that could afford to subsidise those that could not. Programmes were made to service a monopoly and bore little relation to the revenue they earned.

Value-pricing will now enter the jargon of programme supply. Programmes will be sold to ITV at prices that reflect the value of the advertising monies they bring. This will inflict damage on those programmes that have been a public service feature of the ITV schedule: documentaries that take time, patience and tenacity; current affairs that are courageous enough to take risks with authority in pursuit of the public's right to know; and location drama that searches for allusion, originality, characterisation and atmosphere as well as telling a good tale.

The secondary market of valuable repeats — programmes with a proven demographic appeal for advertisers and a lower-than-original material price — will have an obvious appeal to broadcasters who have bid high for their licences.

Does it all matter? Will our political masters continue to show the same indifference to the concerns of the broadcasters and the viewing public as they have in recent years? Or will one or other of the parties be prepared to look again at what, after all, is one of Britain's international success stories?

What is needed is a re-examination of the regulatory barriers which prevent ITV companies combining in stronger, more viable units. Agreement must be reached within Europe for consistent and fair rules of ownership of television companies. The disparity of wealth between the ITV companies because of the bidding process is already creating tensions and conflicts and needs urgent attention.

There is also a need to make an early declaration of an intention to continue to fund the BBC by a licence fee, so that its programme makers can recover their confidence and plan for the future.

Properly organised, the fight for survival can also be a fight for quality. If it is won, the prime beneficiaries will be those who have most to gain from the victory — the viewers, or, shall we say, the electorate.

Are black journalists exploited by their editors? Lesley Thomas reports

Pride and prejudice



On the trail: several black journalists were assigned to cover the Rev Al Sharpton's visit to Britain

law correspondents, to cover the story. One experienced black BBC reporter appeared on screen for the first time in his broadcasting career, having previously been limited to voiceovers.

When the controversial American black rights campaigner the Rev Al Sharpton visited Britain last year, at least five black journalists were hot on his trail.

David Upshal, the chairman of the Black Journalists' Association, says pressure on black journalists in both broadcast and print is great. "On the one hand they are possessed of a specialist knowledge which can be brought to a black story. On the other hand they don't want to be ghettoised. There is always a fear that you are being given a story not because of your ability, but because of your colour, which can be soul-destroying."

The black journalist who allows black stories to be covered by white journalists is often a brave one. Some advise budding black journalists to avoid black stories in the early stages of their careers, although it may be hard to sit back and watch a white journalist deal with a racial story in a way they consider inept. It is more important, it is suggested, that they should make their names as all-rounders, until they feel secure enough to pick and choose.

Some black journalists feel duty-bound to take up black stories. Mr Upshal explains: "We are not just black journalists. We are also black viewers and readers. As such we are all too aware of the negative way in which black people are portrayed in the mainstream media. Often this is because of sloppy journalism and sometimes it is down to deliberate racism."

"Either way, many black journalists feel they have a responsibility to ensure that the images reflect more accurately the community of which they are a part."

Of the handful of black journalists working for national publications, one or two have been bitterly criticised for allowing themselves to be abused by tabloid newspapers. Mr Upshal points to some articles — written by black journalists — which have been critical of the black community.

"There is a cynical use of some black reporters," he says. "I have seen stories that have been damning of black people below the photo byline of a black reporter. Certain newspapers have felt that they can get away with printing a particular type of black story if it has a black author. And they go to the length of printing a picture of the writer to make their point."

The main problem facing black journalists in the national arena is that there are not enough of them. In most cases they are the only black journalist on their publication or production team, and as such it is often assumed that they are there merely as a token — even though it is more likely that they have had to work twice as hard as their white colleagues to prove themselves.

Mr Upshal says it is crucial that more black journalists become successful journalists. "It has always been the aim of the Black Journalists' Association to improve the image of black people in the media," he says. "Implicit in this is that we need more black journalists."

In America, it is not unusual to see four or five black journalists working on high-profile newspapers, and black faces in broadcast are commonplace. The recruitment of talented black people in the American media has been cited as a reason for the proliferation of images of positive black role models.

"There is no shortage in Britain of talented black journalists," Mr Upshal says, "and we want to see more of them breaking into the national circuit on their merits."

Lesley Thomas is the political editor of The Voice.

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Britain's more colourful and raucous papers are good for free speech and democracy, says Jane Reed

I have been reading the press for some time now and I am convinced that the press is the most important institution in our society. It is the only institution that is free to speak the truth and to hold the government to account. It is the only institution that is free to speak the truth and to hold the government to account.

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Liberty with the tabloid touch

Britain's more colourful and raucous papers are good for free speech and democracy, says Jane Reed

I think it was at the recent European Press Assises, sitting in a room the size of a football pitch listening to Euro-worthies elevate journalism to the Elysian plane, that I finally sickened me. Scribblers and hucksters, union reps, entrepreneurs and company directors were all claiming proprietorial rights on freedom of speech.

This was an extraordinary scene of self-aggrandisement and double-speak. The journalists, seeking after freedom of speech — and any story that will keep the news editor off their backs for another day — were represented by the unions. The leader of the unions said, in an extraordinary leap of logic, that "freedom of speech goes hand in hand with deteriorating terms and conditions", thus claiming the high ground against the proprietors. Now we all know the proprietors are hot on the kind of freedom of speech — commercial and editorial — that leaves them free to sell as many papers as they can to as many people as possible.

What I was witnessing was the turning of a fundamentally good idea called journalism — let's inform and entertain the people — into a religious order with its own creed, freedom of speech, its own hierarchy of canons and prelates, its own warring factions of populism versus intellectual purity. And, inevitably, its own inquisitions.

"Are you, or were you ever, a tabloid journalist?" At the pearly gates of this new religion, Kelvin MacKenzie will have to answer to journalists' self-appointed inquisitors for his perceived sins. There will be no forgiveness. Tabloid journalism despoils the creed.

The speech we seek to keep free must be written only in the ways laid down by the established "church", using an approved lexicon. And it must be read only by those of a prescribed intellectual ability. This religious order would rather have a few right and like-minded followers than a burgeoning parish of pluralistic thinkers.

So just who are these high priests? What is their bill of indictment? And do they truly represent the lay millions who read The Word?

They are a mixture of church and state. The "church" is represented by the editors and scribblers at the high altar of the quality papers who want to flick the dandruff of tabloids off their paper shoulders: why must those tabloid journalists do what every other journalist does, so obviously?

The "state" is the officials and parliamentarians who feel uneasy with an untamed press which is not indebted to its government for subsidies and special favours and will not be restrained from holding public officials up to ridicule.

Questions about the power of the press are hot. Did Basil Donaghy



Black and white: although denounced by the "high priests", Britain's tabloids seem to be doing something right — more young people choose to read them than does the adult population as a whole

swing the election and is the only influence on his political thinking The Sun? And if so, did he enter the polling booth like a zombie devoid of all free will? I do not think so. But perhaps I have more respect for Basil Donaghy's intelligence than does the Labour party.

Undoubtedly, the press has power. Undoubtedly, responsibility must go hand in hand with that power. But to paraphrase Pat Chapman, the editor of the News of the World, at the Association of British Editors seminar: Ethel of Dagenham has a very different view of what constitutes power and responsibility to that of, for instance, Donald Treford. This makes neither of them right and neither of them wrong. Just different. The intellectual high ground, of course, will award the broadsheet view more column inches than it will give to Ethel of Dagenham, even if Ethel's views are often more cogently expressed.

The broadsheets do the press in this country no good by constantly berating the tabloids for what they see as their excesses. And the regional papers that claim to have a monopoly of the common man's respectability would do well to remember that complaints against them from the common man to the Press Complaints Commission outnumber those against the tabloids.

Celebrities and politicians may be wary of the British tabloid press, but those with fewer vested interests and some understanding of the business acknowledge that we have the most competitive, pluralistic and diverse press in the world.

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As Jacques Delors (who has little reason to champion the British press) said in his keynote speech to the Assises: "It appears to me that there is one country where this fight by the press is stronger than anywhere else: Great Britain. The newspapers do not hesitate to ask fundamental questions... most of the time the analyses are of high quality, they are forceful and, believe me, you can tell from the readers' letters."

By comparison, the American press, we are told, is breathing its last. There are several theories about why this should be. One is that it just lay down and died in front of the audiovisual invasion. Another that it is dying slowly as its tabloid strength ebbs away.

With some notable exceptions,

the only daily paper in most American towns is full of verbal diarrhoea written by graduates of right-thinking schools of journalism. Every single word has been objectively balanced out of its brain and pressed into acres of dehydrated prose.

In the past 20 years, American newspapers overall have lost almost three times as many readers as have UK papers. Most of them are in the younger age group, but contrary to current thinking, people between 21-25 years in America may not have lost the reading habit to the television screen. In fact, their reading is increasing, but not of newspapers. Young America is reading more books and magazines instead.

The British tabloids, on the other

hand, seem to be doing something right because more young people choose to read tabloids than does the adult population as a whole.

You may deplore the fact that young people like the fast read of the tabloids. But at least they are reading newspapers and news stories: 50 to 60 a day in The Sun (against 60 to 65 a day in The Independent, by the way). They are reading properly constructed sentences with verbs (yes, bonking is a verb), in grammatical — if not always the Queen's — English.

And isn't it this often raucous, colourful, challenging style of writing that keeps people on the edge of their seats — particularly young people? There is courage in tabloid journalism — sometimes misplaced, often reckless but never

timid. And the young, with their black-and-white view of the world, relate to it.

The Americans have free speech enshrined in their constitution and they cherish it. We have no constitution, no automatic right of free speech. Therefore the British press, like children testing the patience of their parents, push and jostle to see just what is meant by free, until someone says stop. I think — although I am not sure — that I prefer this: it means our rights and freedoms are constantly being tested and examined, not against a rigid constitution but against what is acceptable in a constantly changing society.

In any search for acceptable standards it is inevitable that we run into the question of excess. But the word itself is a value judgment. What is "too much"? How far is "too far"? And who should answer those questions?

In a democracy, obviously the people must answer. And there are enough examples of the reader dictating publishing policy: the Star struggling uncomfortably into, and out of, Sunday Sport's tacky underwear, or Sun readers' reaction to its coverage of the Hillsborough tragedy. Every editor knows in his heart which stories he wished he had not run; and if he cannot hear his heart, he can certainly see the size of his mailbox.

Working on the inside of the industry, we can see the reins being applied by the readers every day. But on the outside, this is not so obvious. Nor, it can be argued, is reader power always enough.

Clearly the media are not exactly like every other product. The Sun does have marginally more influence than a baked bean. And for that reason the media need more attention paid to them by the public than does a baked bean. A debate was, and is, necessary.

Parliament does not always represent the people, but in retrospect I think it verbalised some public

unease about privacy and the right of reply. It raised issues and awareness, and it proposed remedies, some of which the very people who espoused them now admit are unworkable.

Reason prevailed. We had Calcutt. Free-range editors paced the floor, gnawing on their fists, desperately trying to maintain the tabloid punch while changing their editorial tone of voice. In an effort to dissociate themselves from Calcutt criticisms, elements of the press put the blame entirely at the tabloid end of the market, conveniently forgetting their own lapses.

From the reader's point of view, the post-Calcutt Press Complaints Commission, unencumbered by a remit to define and support free speech, is a much more satisfactory stick for the consumer's benefit than the previous Press Council.

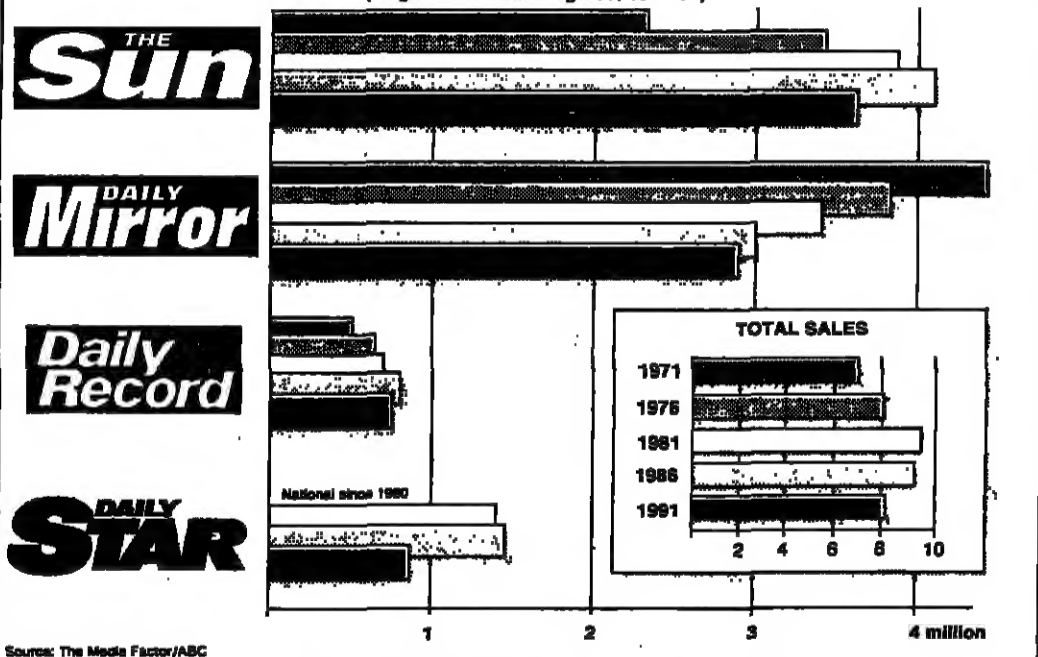
To rubbish the tabloids, to blame them for the ills of the press, to ascribe to them base and sinister motives, ranging from bringing down the monarchy to trying to destroy the moral fabric of society, is easy. But no sane person really believes this. These stories are as baseless as Sunday Sport's silly airbrushed picture of a baby born with a pig's snout and ears. However reluctantly, I have to agree that we should be free to read even that.

As John Milton said: "Promiscuous reading is necessary to the constituting of human nature... The attempt to keep out evil doctrine by licensing is like the exploit of that gallant man who thought to keep out the crows by shutting the park gate... Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties."

Right on, John. This is a condensation of an article which appeared in British Journalism Review. Jane Reed is the director of corporate affairs for News International.

LEADING TABLOIDS:

average sales per day (long-term circulation figures, 1971-91)



And now for a quiet life...

I climbed out of the car, my legs cramped after being driven at 110mph down the A1 from Huntingdon. We had been determined to get to Smith Square before John Major. It was 4.46 in the morning; during our journey the general election of 1992 had been won and lost.

Conservative Central Office was ablaze with light, and the air was full of balloons and flags. Crowds swayed backwards and forwards, camera lights picking out small groups of happy people in the darkness. There was chanting from a group of tough-looking characters near the massed television cameras: "Privatise the BBC!"

It seemed a popular opinion that night. The Sunday Express journalist Bruce Anderson, often mistaken for a Conservative Central Office press officer, was heard to describe the way in which the BBC would now be dismembered — as though he were a 17th-century judge sentencing a regicide.

Kenneth Baker expressed his anger at the BBC's election coverage and threatened revenge. In the hallway of Central Office 100 cameras and photographers jostled and sweated, waiting for Mr Major's arrival. I could still hear the chant drift in through the open doors: "Privatise the BBC!" "Doesn't sound too good," said one of my colleagues, like an explorer listening to the noise of drumming in the jungle.

There was no shortage, certainly, of people in the upper reaches of the Conservative party who felt angry with the BBC. There were new complaints about its election coverage and old ones about the

The BBC is unlikely to be under threat with John Major in Downing Street, John Simpson believes

Today programme, and there was the little matter of my daring to call Mr Major's first public meeting "lame".

There was annoyance, too, that during the run-up to the election the 9 O'Clock News should have led with three minutes of a Neil Kinnock speech before dealing with a John Major one: as though the Tories were German holidaymakers who had to put their towel on the first place in the news bulletins every day. Perhaps the complaint referred to the Tuesday night before polling day, when the Conservatives managed to let their final, climactic rally over-run and Mr Major failed to finish his speech until 9.06. As if they were a Victorian duke at a railway station, the critics seemed to think the BBC should have held the news until they were ready to board.

If you are the governing party of the country and face the possibility of losing an election, little things like these mean a lot. The BBC had powerful enemies at the top of the party. Of those in Mr Major's previous cabinet who would probably like to see the BBC dismantled, one, Kenneth Baker, is now out of the action. But two other remaining senior cabinet min-

isters share the former Home Secretary's view.

Yet as I stood in the hallway of Central Office in the early hours of April 10, I could not believe that serious politicians would use trivial complaints as an excuse for breaking the world's best-known broadcasting service on the wheel and distributing its reeling quarters around the country.

We have, after all, been here before. Margaret Thatcher gave the impression of being a greater enemy of the BBC than anyone; yet she had a clear understanding of the way the British public felt about it. At the

Group of Seven summit in Venice she superceded the foreign journalists who attended her final news conference by launching into a long attack on the BBC.

Afterwards, as we walked together to the television interview room, I started to defend it. She stopped and laid her hand on my arm, smiling — she was warmer and less imperial in those days — and the security men behind us cannoned into one another in surprise. "My dear, you are sensitive," she said soothingly; and then, in a lower voice which I had to strain to hear: "Don't you see it's all part of the game?"

Not all her followers have realised it was just a game. In 1986, when American planes bombed Libya from British bases, Norman Tebbit, as the chairman of the Conservative party, launched an attack on the BBC's coverage. I was summoned from an unappealing lunch in the BBC canteen to help with the drafting of a reply.

As soon as I read Mr Tebbit's document I could see it was full of mistakes and unsupported, sometimes defamatory, allegations. The BBC had never previously defended itself vigorously in public like this against government attack, and it was instructive to see what happened.

First, Downing Street began to receive large numbers of letters of complaint from ordinary viewers and listeners. They were especially angry about the attack on Kate Adie, whose courage and reporting skills were as much admired then as now. Second, Mrs Thatcher quickly withdrew her support for Mr Tebbit's campaign. Soon it petered out, and Conservative Central Office was glad to forget it.

The BBC is an infuriating organisation in all sorts of ways: thoughtless, self-obsessed, sometimes appearing arrogant and at other times cowardly. For most of this century, though, it has provided part of the mortar which has bonded the British nation together. Without the BBC, we would be a less united kingdom. It has given us shared notions of who we are, what we are concerned with, what we find funny.

Except among a few politicians and journalists, it has —



John Simpson: 'the government knows broadcasting is part of the national heritage'

for all its failings — a real hold on the nation's affections. I do not believe public opinion would support a government if it tried to do the kind of wanton damage to the BBC that Mrs Thatcher did to independent television in Britain, ostensibly in the interests of creating a more American climate in the industry.

In the United States, itself, the commercial broadcasting system has done nothing to

raise educational standards, and because the American television networks show progressively less interest in the world outside, so the influence on government policy of educated, informed opinion declines.

In Germany and France, the tone of the public service broadcasters changes when the government changes, since the jobs at the top go to people with whom the incoming gov-

ernment is comfortable. We do not do things this way in Britain, and the British people would not like it if we did.

As for the outside world, the BBC is Britain. During the revolutions in Eastern Europe in 1989, I had only to say I worked for the BBC to be allowed into the innermost sanctum of the revolutionaries, to be applauded in the streets, or to be lifted, on one embarrassing occasion, over the

heads of the rejoicing crowds.

In Tiananmen Square the BBC was the single best-known foreign broadcasting service and we were swamped by well-wishers. During the coup in Moscow, communists and democrats alike let us do anything we wanted.

Now British influence, British culture and British standards of reporting are reaching large areas of the globe through BBC World Service Television, just as they have done for many years by World Service radio. Within three months of its inception, the BBC's television service to Asia was said to be reaching a larger audience than the American Cable News Network had gained in a decade. To explain to such enthusiasts abroad that the ruling party in Britain has its knife into the BBC and has threatened to break it up is to invite looks of sheer incomprehension.

Perhaps it will never happen. Mr Major is not a stirrer. He is unlikely, therefore, to do to the BBC what Mrs Thatcher was too canny to attempt. When Mr Major announced the creation of a national heritage department, gave it responsibility for broadcasting, and put the relaxed and cultivated David Mellor in charge of it, it seemed conclusive.

No doubt there will be plenty of rows before the renewal of the BBC Charter in 1996. But I believe we now have a government that appreciates that broadcasting is indeed part of the national heritage, and not something to be tinkered with for party advantage. The advice of the revolutionary guards outside Central Office should not only be disregarded, it probably will be disregarded.

John Simpson is the BBC's foreign editor. This article first appeared in The Spectator.

What it takes to treat young minds in pain

Helping a teenager to cope with anger at a parent's sudden death, supporting a sexually abused child and counselling a family with a violent adolescent are all in a day's work for the child psychotherapist.

There is growing awareness of the damage done to children through abuse and neglect, but behind the headlines there are professionals who pick up the pieces and help frightened children towards a more normal life.

"Child psychotherapists are specially trained to help children who have suffered severe trauma or have been unable to develop trusting relationships with adults," explains Dorothy Judd, the principal child psychotherapist at the Middlesex Hospital, London.

"They offer treatment, often over many years, for eating and sleeping problems, violent and destructive behaviour, and the effects of death and divorce. Therapists, using psychoanalytical principles, and techniques, encourage children to communicate their fears and experiences through play."

Child psychotherapy has had professional status within the NHS for 40 years, and many early practitioners worked in child guidance

Widget Finn describes the training that equips a child psychotherapist for the job

ance clinics to deal with the emotional problems of children, particularly evacuees, after the war.

There are four training schools for child psychotherapists in London and one in Edinburgh. The course is for postgraduates with an honours degree. "People usually start child psychotherapy training in their late twenties, often coming from a first career in nursing, teaching or social work," Mrs Judd says. "Students should already have worked with children, and perhaps also have some psychiatric experience."

Every student undergoes personal analysis three or four times a week with an approved practitioner as part of the training. Mrs Judd says: "Through their own analysis students gain insight into their own emotions and needs, which helps them to understand the conflicts in the children they treat."

The cost of analysis, which can be £5,000 a year, has to be borne by the student, and this, Mrs Judd points out, bars many suitable applicants from the profession through lack of funds. Scholar-

ships, however, are available through the Child Psychotherapy Trust, and some regional health authorities offer trainee posts.

The two-year pre-clinical programme has the status of an MA, and students develop their skills through detailed observation of babies and young children. The clinical training is from three to five years, when trainee psychotherapists work in the NHS under close supervision, taking on three long-term intensive cases with children of different ages. Trainees also work with parents of children in therapy and a variety of special patients, such as autistic or physically handicapped children.

Francesca Bartlett divides her working week as a child psychotherapist between a baby clinic at a west London health centre, and the children's department of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. "The posts complement each other," she says. "At the health centre I am working in the community with mums who are referred with post-

natal depression, or with anxieties about their babies' eating and sleeping. At Bart's I work with children in hospital with chronic illness and the staff who are involved in their care."

Miss Bartlett qualified as a child psychotherapist a year ago. While working in a residential home with autistic children she decided to become a child psychotherapist and has worked steadily towards that goal for ten years. Her original training had been in the fine arts. She had to take further A levels and get a first degree before she could study child psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic in London.

She says: "Many psychotherapists have an academic background in psychology or psychiatry. I took a BA honours degree at London University in anthropology and linguistics because I felt that such a broadly based subject would increase my understanding of behavioural problems in children." At the pre-clinical stage of her training she worked in a social services nursery in Camden, north London, helping families where the mothers had come from broken homes and difficult backgrounds. After a five-year break because of family commitments, she embarked on the clinical programme,



combining it with a trainee post in the child guidance centre of a health authority. Only people who are strongly committed, she says, should consider this career.

"The training is demanding and strenuous," she says, "and involves considerable financial outlay. You have to work several evenings a week, and often can see patients only in the early morning. It takes

up a lot of emotional and mental energy, and friends and partners have to be understanding."

Many people who have moved from another career take a considerable drop in income. The financial rewards are small. NHS salaries start at £13,000 and there are few posts paying more than £20,000, though some psychotherapists also have private practices.

Child psychotherapy is, however, one of the few careers in which demand outstrips supply.

Child Psychotherapy Trust, 27 Upper Road, London NW9; Association of Child Psychotherapists, Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3; Training Administrator, Tavistock Clinic, Belzoni Lane, London NW3 5BA; Scottish Institute of Human Relations, 56 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QR

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